No. 555.

STATE EXPRESS CIGARETTES

No. 444.

THE XMAS GIFT PROBLEM—SOLVED! See Page 26.

JOHN BULL

VOL. XXVI. No. 706. | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1919. | TWOPENCE.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

Drink and enjoy

Lipton's Tea

If you want the best Tea, go to the firm that grows it.

The Largest Tea Distributers, Manufacturers, and Retailers of Food Products in the World.

LIPTON LTD., CITY RD., LONDON, E.C.1.

Branches and Agencies throughout the United Kingdom.

Resting, but Watchful

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

ROYAL MEWS SCANDAL

Cavander's "ARMY CLUB" Champions.

Georges

"Champions Both"

"CAVANDER'S ARMY CLUB" CIGARETTES.

20 for 1/1

Of all Tobacconists

CAVANDERS LIMITED, London and Glasgow.

Special!

MANUFACTURER'S OFFER TO KILL PROFITEERING.

New Season Styles at ACTUAL FACTORY COST.

Either Style **29/6**

We offer to send you direct from our Factory at Wholesale Price one of our famous SARTOR Raincoats, tailored from fine weather proof Gabardine Cloth in the latest style, as illustrated. These coats are of the same quality, style, and finish as those sold in the shops at **50/- or more.**
Here are the particulars:—

No. 12. **LADY'S "EASYFIT" RAINCOAT.** Belted slip-on style for all weathers and occasions. Fully check-lined, side pockets, storm sleeves and collar. Can be worn with or without belt.

Factory Price .. .. 29/6.

No. 13. **GENT'S "EASYFIT" RAINCOAT.** Belted slip-on style, easy fitting, fully lined check and weather proof. Excellent cut and tailoring throughout.

Factory Price .. .. 29/6.

Send Postcard for Free Patterns and Fashion Book, etc., etc. Money refunded if not completely satisfied.

SARTOR MFG. CO.
(Dept. J.), 53, Oxford Road, Manchester.

'Ever-Ready' Safety Razor

Trade Mark Face.

The 'Ever-Ready' Shave is the pleasant daily routine of millions of men the world over. They *know* it is the best razor by their own test. The frame is guaranteed for ten years. The 'Ever-Ready' outfit is complete in substantial case with 7 'Radio' Blades for

5/-

'X 3 X' Temper Radio Blades.

'Ever-Ready' enthusiasts are enjoying these new 'X 3 X' Temper 'Radio' Blades. They are the keenest, cleanest, and finest blades made. The harder your beard and more tender your skin, the more you will appreciate these 'Radio' Blades. You can buy them at every good store the world over, 1/6 for 6, or 3/- for 12.

Refuse inferior substitutes.

'EVER-READY' SAFETY RAZOR CO. LTD., 130, Great Portland Street, London, W.1

FREE cookery book of delicious new recipes.

A NEW book of delicious recipes, profusely illustrated with complete directions for serving, is just out of the press.

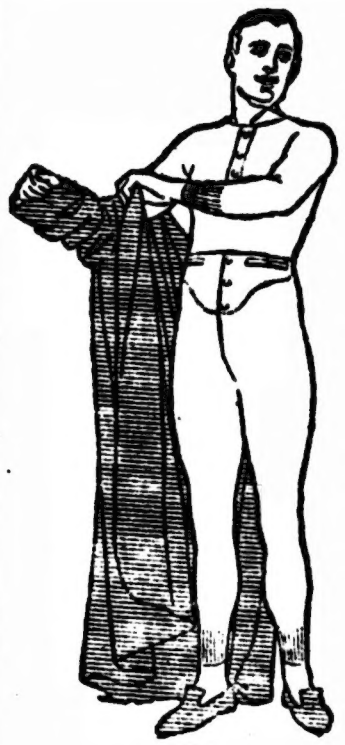
If you are interested in good cooking, if you are keen to try something a little different yet economical for your table, you will want a copy of this attractive cookery booklet. It is full of novel suggestions for special guest dishes, useful hints for making plain everyday dishes more appetising, and contains many butter and cream saving recipes that will be particularly welcome this winter.

The edition is limited, but by notifying us now we will be pleased to reserve a complimentary copy for you. Simply send us your name and address, and your copy will be forwarded.

TO THE TRADE.
We shall be glad to supply all those who are entering for the **"John Bull" National Window-Dressing Competition** with showcards and other helpful material for window displays.

Libby, McNeill & Libby, Ltd.
DEPT. 300, 8, GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON.

BRANCHES:
LIVERPOOL. MANCHESTER. BIRMINGHAM.
GLASGOW. BRISTOL. HULL.
NEWCASTLE. ABERDEEN.



Your Purse won't shy at the price.

"SENSOLA"—the warm soft mixture underwear—comes as a boon to those who find all wool too expensive.

"Sensola" has for twenty years given unusual satisfaction. To-day there are thousands of Drapers and Hosiers selling it in all parts of the country.

If you can afford all-wool underwear, get "ALPHA," the best that's made. Otherwise see that you buy "Sensola"—nothing better at the price. All genuine "Sensola" garments bear the name, and are well shaped and finished throughout.

For Men, Women, and Children.

Sensola

CHOICEST OF ECONOMICAL UNDERWEAR

Excellent range of sizes ensures good fitting for everybody. Most good Drapers and Hosiers sell "Sensola." If any difficulty in obtaining, send post card for name of nearest dealer to:—

Proprietors of "ALPHA" and "SENSOLA" Underwear.

T.H. Downing & Co Ltd Leicester

JOHN BULL

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."
—*Milton.*

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

"For forms of government let fools contest;
Whate'er is best administered is best."—*Pope.*

Vol. XXVI. No. 706. **Week ending Saturday, December 13th, 1919.** **Twopence.**

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Premium Bond Debate.

Elsewhere we deal with the farce and the fraud of this debate, in which the Government although nominally taking off the Whips—strained every nerve to secure the defeat of the proposal.

The French Premium Bond Issue.

The immediate result will be that millions of money will go to France, where an issue of two thousand millions of very attractive Premium Bonds is about to be made. Readers desirous of participating in such issue should communicate at once with the Secretary, Victory Bond Club, 26, King Street, St. James's, S.W.1. We shall have an important announcement to make next week.

The Aliens Bill.

The Lords seem determined—or, rather, the cranks amongst them do—to wreck this measure, which, goodness knows, we had work enough to lick into some sort of shape in the House of Commons. We shall have to take it again in hand when it comes back.

Changing His Mind.

We have before us a letter written by Mr. F. D. Acland during the last General Election, in which, in answer to the question whether he is in favour of expelling all enemy aliens from Britain and keeping them out, he says: "I *am* in favour of this." And yet he seconded the rejection of the Aliens Restriction Bill on third reading! He really should keep a copy of his election promises.

Brain v. Brawn.

We make no claim to expert boxing knowledge; but sitting immediately at the ringside during the Carpentier-Beckett fight (leaving a sick room for the express purpose of getting there), we could not fail to realise the triumph of brain over brawn—not that we should be disposed to treat with indifference the punch of Carpentier, should we unfortunately have an altercation with him.

The *Daily Herald*.

Our advanced contemporary is making an appeal for further funds. And on the whole its prospectus is praiseworthily candid. Is it *quite* fair, however, to give the circulation for October only? Was not that the month of the railway strike, and didn't the *Herald* itself claim that during that period its circulation was abnormally high? How hopeless, however, from a commercial point of view this class of journalism is may be gathered from the admission that even after an increased circulation "the weekly loss has fallen to £1,400."

The League of Nations.

Extract from our speech on the Address, at the beginning of the Session: "Are we quite sure that America will accept this precious League, or *that she will ratify the Treaty?*"

An Undesirable Delegate.

Is it the fact that Mr. Montagu has nominated as Indian Labour Delegate for the Washington Congress, Mr. B. P. Wadie? Is there some mysterious compact between the Secretary of State for India and the High Priestess of Theosophy—with Home Rule for India thrown in?

IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

If you have not yet selected your presents for Christmas, write at once to the Secretary of the Victory Club, 26, King Street, St. James's, London, S.W., for an illustrated catalogue of various useful and artistic articles; guaranteed to be made from the metal of the German super-submarine "Deutschland." Apart from their intrinsic charm, these articles should, as time goes on, acquire an historic interest adding enormously to their value, whilst nothing more inspiring could be selected for children. The presents range in price from sixpence to six shillings.

The "Deutschland" is still on view off Charing Cross Pier, but will shortly start on a coastal tour. As already announced, a steam launch leaves the pier every half hour for the submarine, and an inclusive charge of one shilling covers admission to the deck, launch fare and Entertainment Tax—a further shilling being charged for an inspection of the interior of the vessel. All proceeds from the exhibition go to King George's Fund for Sailors.

Good Company.

Thus the *Times of Malaya* on ourselves: "That great man is one of three who have done work for the British Empire which is beyond praise"—the other two are His Majesty and the Prime Minister!

"If You See It——."

This time we are quoting from the title page of a pamphlet "Printed for *John Bull*" in the year 1642—perhaps our earliest progenitor "Discovering the dangers and miseries the three kingdomes are liable unto, by reasons of His Majesties evill Counsellors as the effects doth declare. As also, the Justice, reasonableness and necessitie of changing them." Evidently, politicians have always been the same!

The Stores Strike.

Our readers will not be surprised that it came at last. We have frequently protested against the arbitrary attitude adopted by the Directors towards their staff.

A Parson's Praise.

A Midlands parson writes: "I do want to thank you, and without cant I think I may tell you this—that from time to time I 'pit up a bit prayer' for you." Every little helps!

And in the 20th Century!

Did you note that horrible exhibition of the brutal callousness of the law at the Manchester Assizes—the execution of the death sentence on a woman postponed until after she has given birth to a child? Could anything be more horrible? And this in Christian England! We shall have more to say on the matter later.

A Palpable Slip.

We notice that the other day when two witnesses failed to appear on subpœna, and Mr. Justice Darling was appealed to, he declared that it was not for him to "advise one litigant against another." May we remind his Lordship that when a witness ignores a subpœna the Court has the power to enforce obedience? A subpœna is a command from the King.

Customs Hoarding.

Is it the fact that, compared with the last day of October, 1914, there were 20 million gallons of rum and brandy in bond as against 9 millions; 6,460,000 cwt. of sugar as against 3,605,000; 150 million pounds of tea as against 60 millions; and 12,333,000 gallons of wine as against 5,120,000? If so, isn't it time that the revenue were allowed to benefit by the release of this stuff?

Quite Correct.

Thus the "*L. S. D.*" (Life, Sport and Drama) of Johannesburg: "The average intelligence prevailing in Great Britain may be gauged from the fact that of the *New Age*, by far the best democratic paper published in the world, barely 3,000 copies are sold a week, while of JOHN BULL, the medium of Bottomley, the popular appetite is not satisfied with less than a million and a half." Quite correct.

Yankee Bounce.

A party of Canadian soldiers met a number of Americans on their way home, and seeing that the Yanks were carrying a banner with the inscription "We Won the War," the Dominion boys—most of whom had joined up in 1914—improvised one of their own, bearing the simple words "We Helped." Probably, however, the irony was wasted.

Local Limerick.

(During a case heard at Clerkenwell County Court it was stated that rags have dropped 16s. per cwt.)

There once was a poor man who swore
That he'd never wear clothes any more;
But when rags had a slump
And came down with a bump,
He'd a ragtime with all that he wore.

Trade Union Orders.

From a workman of the old school, who believes in fair work for a fair wage, we learn that the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners has issued an order to all members to cease piecework and work by time only. Failure to comply with this fiat involves expulsion from the Union. From a public point of view the step would not appear to aid the increased output so much desired. From the workman's standpoint, it is an autocratic interference with his right to earn his living.

Face.

It is well known of Jack Jones, of Covent Gawdin Market, that he hed the cheek an' impedence to call 'is muvver 'is ma. One Walsall gentlemen beats that record out of hand. "I am related," says he, "to Mr. —, who won your big prize for one of the best 'Bulletz.' The thought came to me that, his wife being my father's brother's daughter and also my first cousin, you might like to send us a gift on our wedding day. Thanking you in anticipation. Yours sincerely." We send our best wishes.

Kinlochleven's Own.

In contradistinction to the Portland cleric referred to elsewhere, up in Kinlochleven they have a parson whom crowds of the folk that way are very fond of. "My experience about dancing," the Rev. E. J. Pizey hits out among the unco guid, "is that it is the narrow-minded, bigoted, evil-thinking, sanctimonious, hypocritical, hypercritical, impure-minded laity who are the greatest obstacles to this healthy social pastime. My prayer is, 'From the canting hypocrisy of irreligious Christians, good Lord deliver us.'" Amen.

"Luxury Enough."

The announcement that fruit will be cheaper at Christmas leaves a certain Bristol parent stone cold. His children, says he, don't thrive on pineapples, and figs, and oranges, and bananas, and nuts, and pomegranates, and chunks of lemon peel. His idea is that people who want these things should gorge themselves with them and pay big prices for them, leaving his own and other kiddies with plenty of cheap bread, butter, milk, and sugar, the which they would regard as "luxury enough." But surely it is something that anything will be cheaper at Christmas?

Maternity.

A few mothers desire us to put some delicate questions to Mr. Lloyd George. They "hear much about increasing the population" (a subject peculiarly their own) and also about the increase of the nurse's fee from 10s. 6d. to £1 1s. But "why is there not a word about increasing the maternity benefit? Don't he (Mr. L. G.) think she (the mother) wants nourishment as well as the nurse?" The argument, with which we are in entire accord, is hereby referred to the Prime Minister for his best consideration. Should he need any more enlightenment, no doubt Mrs. Lloyd George would be able to supply it.

Oatmeal Wages.

It is a great pity advertisers are so shy of their names and addresses. We should often love to give them free publicity. Here, for instance, is an un-named firm needing a dispatch clerk and foreman in the wholesale electrical trade in Glasgow. They require one of 30 to 35, who must be a "strong and willing worker," and they will pay him 40s. a week. Well, he may be willing enough, but will not long continue strong at that. Even porridge has to be paid for.

Preacher and Profiteer.

Mr. R. W. Drewery, grocer, of New Silksworth, near Sunderland, is not only a local preacher but a profiteer. He charged a customer 9d. an ounce for *glacé* cherries—at the rate of 12s. a pound for stock he bought at 5s. There was the usual old plea that the overcharge was all a mistake, and on the ground that Drewery "could not make a fortune" out of the sale of *glacé* cherries, the Sunderland Tribunal let him off on taking back the fruit and returning the money. It is a fair example of the farce and foolery going on at alleged Anti-Profiteering Tribunals all over the country.

Simplest and Most Popular Football Competition.

- £250 -

MUST BE WON

FOR NAMING TEN WINNING TEAMS

Or next largest number of winning teams.

Fill up the coupon on page iii of cover.

A Conchy's Cheek.

For colossal impudence this advertisement, from a Bridgwater newspaper, would be hard to beat:—"Look! Look! Samuel Williams, 1916 to 1919 Conscientious Objector, is still alive and he opens fire on Profiteers. He will pay you 8d. each for fresh rabbit skins . . . Note the address, Tappers Lane, North Petherton." A rabbit skin is appropriate clothing for a Conchy, but this Sam Williams, being a rag and bone-man, wants to deal in them. His advert. has at least one merit; it shows good and loyal people the kind of person he is.

Wagoners' Hours.

At Sleaford County Court a wagoner sued a farmer for overtime, contending that he had been made to work more than the customary hours—which he contended were 66 per week in summer and 60 in winter. After hearing the evidence of some farmers, the Judge ruled that a wagoner's proper hours are from 4.30 in the morning during summer, and from 5 in the morn in winter, up to 7 at night in each case, with four hours on Sunday extra. So the poor chap lost his case, and had to pay costs. Poor wagoners! If such is their slavery, the outrage should be stopped on the moment.

Dis-Appointments.

One more of the wicked ways of that Dis-Appointments Department is to fix up men for training courses with maintenance fees, and then to forget all about that maintenance. We hear of ex-officers, taking a course at the Westminster Pharmaceutical College, obliged to leave because not a farthing of the allowance has been received. A Picture Play Company have agreed to give, free of charge to picked men, a valuable training as producers, but those men are unable to commence because the promised maintenance money is still in the air. Small wonder that ex-soldiers and firms alike are sick of that discredited Department.

Coats.

It is taking Mr. McCurdy's Committee a deuce of a time to sift the why and wherefore of Coats' 7½d. reel of cotton. It is a long, long trail, indeed. Are they going to sleep over the job, or are they simply spoofing—with the idea that if they take long enough over their Report they will have no need to report at all?

More Trouble.

We are always more or less in trouble. A "South London Wage Earner," after much criticism of our manifold iniquities, thus ends his screed: "But very soon the spirit of justice we call Bolshevism will triumph, an then Save yourselve by drowning becaus the corde which is good enough for the Kaiz is good for you. One of those who shall tak revenge on you when the day come." *Kamerad! Kamerad!!* What *have* we done?

Waste and Wastrels.

Advertisement appearing in the *Kent Express*: "Corned beef in 6-lb. tins for pig food; not less than one ton, £10, in London. Condemned as human food." We shall not advertise the advertiser, who, we take it, is well in the know of a story of waste and wastrels of the long, familiar type. In any case, it may be questioned whether the pigs will get all this corned beef. Every cookhouse has its mysteries; some people never argue with a sausage.

Gobbery and Robbery.

From a South Wales miner we learn that it is "shameful how so many people in London are paying £2 10s. a ton for what is supposed to be coal, but is nothing but stone which in South Wales is used only for filling in a gob in a mud road or a stone road in the face." He thinks "such daylight robbery should catch the eye of the Coal Controller." It has caught his eye many a time and oft, of course, but, unlike the coalowner, he keeps his "gob" shut about it.

"Made in Holland."

In 1914 a Bristol man "did a large business in electric lamps imported from Holland." On the outbreak of war, of his own accord, he shut up and joined up. He wishes to start in the business again, but is "informed by the Board of Trade that the importation of all electric lamps is prohibited in this country." He asserts that this is an official whopper, "as people in Bristol are getting regular supplies of lamps marked 'Licensed for sale in Great Britain. Made in Holland.'" He should point this out to the Board of Trade. If they are whoppering, peradventure they will tell him why, and then give him a trading licence, on condition that he doesn't say a word about it.

The Old Hop.

As a gas consumer of Dudley puts it, "they are all on the same hop." He has a pre-war cooking-stove, rented from the local Gas Company, for which he used to pay 1s. a quarter. Recently it jumped to 2s. 3d. He would have no quarterly bills if he paid through the meter, said an official, so he consented to have the meter adjusted accordingly. But he was mistaken, for the bill duly arrived for 2s. 3d. He then ordered the removal of the stove. "We will do this as soon as the labour situation allows," wrote the Company in reply; "you will, of course, be responsible for the rental until we are able to remove the stove." Our Dudley friend should realise that Gas Companies do not make a parade of their philanthropy. What they give away is nothing to nobody

Local Limerick.

(*Edgar Allan Dickinson, window-cleaner, Leigh, Lancs, has been discovered to possess a remarkable double voice. He sings bass and tenor notes at the same time.*)

There's a man with a double-voiced throat;
If his time to finance he'd devote,
Much wealth it should bring.
For he has but to sing
In order to double each note.

What is a Gamble?

"Never run a risk to such an extent that it will interfere with your sleep." This was Mr. Bonar Law's "rule-of-thumb definition" of gambling during the Premium Bonds debate. It isn't a definition, but as practical advice we can all recognise its excellence.

Shopped.

A reader who would like to open a shop (not with a crowbar, but for business) tells us of the best offer he can obtain around Eltham way. It is of a lock-up shop, 10 feet by 15 feet deep. The rent is only £160 a year, and the premium a fleabite of £450 down on the nail. It may be that our correspondent means yards instead of feet, because it sounds rather like a doll's house. But we echo his query, "Why pay a premium?" If nobody did, the nefarious game would cease.

Pouncing on his Pension.

Somebody in Edinburgh has picked up and sent us a Special Vacancy Card, issued by the Labour Exchange. The "special" vacancy is for two servants in a lady's flat. The man must be "a disabled soldier with a pension," the wife is to do the cooking. The wages, for the two, are "4s. 3d. a week when no one is in the flat: 12s. 6d. when flat is occupied: board and lodging free"—thank goodness, these items have not to be paid for out of the weekly 4s. 3d. The lady has this saving grace "no objection to one child provided it is small." It would probably remain small—and thin—on its parents' income.

Hot-Air at Sevenoaks.

At a recent Labour Party meeting at Sevenoaks, a Mr. Marshall was responsible for the statement that "Russia was a better country under Bolshevism than this country was under its present conditions." Finding that this tomfool utterance did not elicit the enthusiasm he expected, the speaker went on to find fault with his audience—remarking that, "if he were in Sevenoaks he would turn it upside down." However, we understand that the good folks of Sevenoaks have no fancy for somersaults, so this perfervid Bolshevist will be well advised not to "try it on." Otherwise, we fear it may not be Sevenoaks that is compelled to loop the loop.

Boot for Curate.

It was the almost unanimous wish of the congregation, when the late Vicar of All Souls, Brighton, went to Zanzibar, that the Rev. E. F. Reade, curate for 14 years, should have the living. They therefore petitioned the patron, the Vicar of Brighton, but he appointed a curate of Leigh-on-Sea. Then the congregation tore down and burned the poster announcing the name of the new Vicar. This naturally placed Mr. Reade—though he did not instigate the episode—in a false position, and he resigned. Since then there have been three or four vacant livings in Brighton, but to each one the patron has appointed—somebody else. And the fourteen-years' curate is still out of a job!

Mines and Money.

Our information from local readers is that if the Government would help to finance the South Wales Cornish "mineral" mines, they could find work for many hundreds of unemployed and enable them to go full steam ahead for the advantage of the country. However, we are not expert enough in the tin trade to profess any opinion on the matter.

Queues for Coal.

By the way, queueing for coal is already a winter pastime in several parts of London. How does it come about? ask two miners from Pentre, Rhondda Valley. "Seeing that the miners are on stop here owing to shortage of wagons, what is becoming of the coal that is being filled?" they continue. Perhaps the Coal Controller's Department are eating it.

Unearned!

Many sins are committed in the name of the Income Tax Commissioners, but surely the worst crime of all is the taxing of the pensions of War widows and orphans as "unearned income." The widow in her weeds, the little ones in their black, have their pounds and shillings filched from them because father, killed on the field of battle, earned immortality and a grave but not any money. So the pension meticulously measured out to his loved ones is docketed, "Unearned." Ye gods!

Unscheduled.

"Can you state in your paper what the articles are that come under the Profiteering Act?" Thus a Hampstead lady. Her immediate grievance is that she went into a Drug Store at Hampstead, where she was charged 5d. for a baby's teat, for which 3½d. is charged at another shop in the neighbourhood. The Clerk to the Committee informs her they cannot take action as "infants' comforters" are not in the schedule to the Act. The Drug Stores are evidently in luck's way.

THE ROYAL MEWS SCANDAL.
See page 6

The Stuff to Give 'Em!

A workman of Bolshevistic views, employed by a Fleetwood firm, refused on Armistice Day to observe the two minutes' silence enjoined by the King. Instead, he sat on a tub and whistled his contempt for the gallant men who had offered up their lives so that such scum as he might live. His fellow workmen rolled him in moulder's sand, which is a dark shade of black, and threw him bodily out of the works. Later, having washed and dried himself, he returned to his job, a sadder and a wiser man. Water has a very salutary effect upon Bolshies and other wild haired revolutionaries.

The Hay Scandal.

According to one forage firm, we have not cursed the authorities half enough over the hay scandal. Instead of a loss of 5 tons out of every 50 tons through rotting, they think we should be nearer the mark if we put it at 15. This is the firm's own average of waste. "We have had hay standing on the ground for months waiting for wagons," they say. "If there happens to be a wagon there are no sheets, and so it is sent out, and another wait takes place for a truck to come in again, and so on. We know of thousands of tons of hay standing on the ground rotting away." A rotten state of things indeed.

Those Suits.

Already we have published an ex-soldier's suggestion concerning those 250,000 "civvies" which the Disposals Board announce for sale by tender. He suggests that a store or stores should be opened to sell them in single lots. Certainly the man in the street ought to have the chance of a suit of reach-me-downs at a fair price. It is less trouble, however, for the Board to let the Graball speculators have 'em *pour encourager messieurs les profiteers*.

Canadian Prices.

In the *Toronto Evening Telegram* appear the advertisements of the two leading stores in the city. From the list of goods described—many of them of British origin—it is evident that Canada, with its protective tariffs and normally high prices, is underselling us in our own goods. Take two items for illustration. In Toronto, Fry's Cocoa is priced at 20 cts., or 10d., the half-pound; in this country it is 1s. 6d. whilst Sunlight Soap is 12 ounces for 9 cts., or 4½d; here the price is 11½d. for 16 ounces. Explanation thankfully received.

Cottoned.

The Royal Clothing Factory at Pimlico is "suspending operations," having enough uniforms to supply the Army for 10 years. This being so, one of the officials may like to satisfy our curiosity concerning the mountains of sewing cotton and thread which have been so picturesque a spectacle of this huge tailoring business. Have the Government exhausted their stocks? If not, it is hereby suggested that they unload what remains for the benefit, not of grabbing syndicates of profit snatchers, but of poor housewives and seamstresses. Cotton is not like wine. It does not improve by keeping.

A Comfortable Coach-house.

Here is impudence, naked and unashamed advertising itself in a daily: "To let rent free, for Odd Work in house and garden, a comfortable Coach-house, near London (Kent); applications entertained from married couples, two sisters, or others whose employment or income is assured." The person, it is patent, is after a cook-housekeeper and a gardener, without paying wages or providing their meals. But, if he can catch a pensioned man and wife, he will graciously permit them, when they have done his work, to sleep in his dog-kennel—beg pardon, coach-house. Shyly he hides his name, which is a pity.

This Picture and That.

The November issue of the *Co-partnership Journal*, published by the South Metropolitan Gas Company, provides some interesting reading. On p. 163 there appears an editorial warmly approving of the King's appeal for the employment by firms of disabled soldiers. On p. 171 is a report of a meeting of the Co-partnership Committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Charles Carpenter, who "stated that the employment of women as slot meter collectors having proved satisfactory, it had been decided to continue it. . . ." This was a distinct advantage to the Company's business, and would be extended in course of time, until probably the larger number engaged on the work would be women." Readers fond of reconciling contradictions might have a "go" at this one.

Our Christmas Gift.

At the request of numerous readers, this week we reprint our Christmas Gift coupon for JOHN BULL Pens. If you want one for personal use, or as a gift, hurry up.

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.

To the Right Hon. E. Shortt, M.P., Home Secretary.

DEAR MR. SHORTT,—Thanks are due to you for the promptitude with which you acted in the case of Frederick Carter. Directly your attention was called to it by my article, "He Must Not Die," you sent mental specialists to see the condemned man. They had little difficulty in agreeing with my view of the case, and so Carter's life has been spared. Surely the moral is, that in all such cases, where the sanity of a prisoner is in question, the Home Office should send down specialists of the highest attainments, instead of leaving the matter to local doctors. Don't you agree? JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Harry Dixons Pain, Farmer, Thorney, Peterborough.

SIR,—I observe you have been fined £50 and £10 costs for having permitted eleven stacks of wheat to be wasted. The amount is not commensurate with the offence, a species of wrong-doing at once inimical to the national interests and a sin against the people's stomach. At a time when food is wanted and when dealers are suspected of holding up stocks for the sake of reaping improper and indecent profits, you are found guilty of letting your store of wheat go to ruin instead of to the millers. Your brother farmers will not appreciate the finding of a black sheep among them, and those who have not been found out will be first to condemn you. For I do not think you are the only "waster" among farmers. Next harvest, waste not, so that the country may want not.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. Sir L. Worthington Evans, Bart., M.P., Minister of Pensions.

DEAR SIR LAMING,—You have been at pains to emphasise your desire that ex-soldiers undergoing asylum treatment should be regarded as on the footing of "private patients" and not as pauper lunatics; but I am afraid that in some instances this very proper distinction has been drawn so fine as to be scarcely perceptible. Where soldier-patients are treated in the same institutions as persons chargeable to the Poor Law, there is a constant danger that your wishes in this matter may be ignored, and I know of several cases in which men deserving of the greatest consideration have been subjected to gross indignities. The matter is one in which it is the clear duty of the Pensions Ministry to frame explicit regulations, and see that they are obeyed. Only in this way, and not by pious speeches, can the interests of soldier-patients be safeguarded. JOHN BULL.

To Miss Hay, Matron, Cardiff Sanatorium.

MADAM,—I have been greatly shocked, as I am sure you must have been, by the tragic death of one of your little patients, a baby under three years of age. It appears that, for alleged "naughtiness," this poor mite only recently convalescent from a serious illness was taken to the bathroom and left by himself in the empty bath this, it was stated, being a mode of treatment which, with or without your sanction, had frequently been practised upon refractory children. On this occasion, however, the hot water tap was by some means or other turned on, and the poor child so severely scalded that he died shortly afterwards from shock. That you had no direct responsibility for the shocking affair, I can well believe, but I should be glad to know what disciplinary action has been taken against the nurse who was responsible, and what steps you propose to ensure the children's safety for the future.

JOHN BULL.

To Mrs. Andrew Lucas, Cuthrie Street, Hamilton.

DEAR MADAM,—Seeing that you have just become the mother of four children—three boys and a girl—at a single birth, I hasten to tender congratulations and to express the earnest hope that all five of you are doing well. I understand that there are two other children—one three years old and another 15 months—so that's six altogether, and a nice little lot to go on with. I am sure that your last plucky effort has delighted the heart of the Registrar-General, who must get terribly tired of counting up the ones and twos that are all most people can manage to assist the recovery of the birth-rate. Forgive the inquiry, but I suppose you haven't a patent recipe that, with seemly discretion, I could pass along? JOHN BULL.

To Lt.-General Sir Francis Lloyd.

DEAR GENERAL,—News reaches me that you have been appointed Food Controller for London and the Home Counties. Between you and me and the gatepost, I hear that all you know about food is how to eat it, but all I expect of you in your new job is to learn how to shunt it. If you have merely arrived to join the crowd and lend a hand to make confusion worse confounded, you can take it right here that you won't earn your salary. *Au contraire*, clear the goods and get 'em along to the places where people are ready to eat 'em, and you can call for your money every quarter without any complaint from me. There is tons of meat to shift from the ships to the shops—so get along with your job and make no bones about it. Good luck and good wishes!

JOHN BULL.

To Sir William Gentle, Chief Constable of Brighton.

DEAR SIR WILLIAM,—If there is any sort of trouble in any corner of the earth I am pretty certain to hear of it, sooner rather than later, and you may imagine that I have not been kept in ignorance of the ugly menace that has assailed the women of Brighton through the attacks of an unknown ruffian, whom all your efforts have as yet failed to lay by the heels. I gather from the *Sunday Evening Telegram*—which first drew public attention to the matter—that as a result of this hidden peril that infests the darker thoroughfares of the town, a positive "reign of terror" has been established, recalling some of the most sinister chapters of our criminal annals. However, knowing your exemplary zeal and devotion to duty, I am sure it will not be long before you are able to effect an arrest. More power to your efforts!

JOHN BULL.

To the Magistrate, Highgate Police Court.

DEAR BEAK,—You have an accommodating conscience, and I am sorry I cannot mention your honoured name, because the newspaper does not give it, and I should hate to throw my bouquet to the wrong cadi. A lady, who was summoned for having no rear lamp on her bicycle, sent an open cheque for the fine, and this colloquy occurred in Court. You: "Make it out for £5." The Deputy Clerk: "Sorry, but we cannot do that. There is a note, 'Not to exceed £1.'" You: "Make it out for 10s." Second thoughts were cheaper—for the lady. The mind of justice turned a financial somersault, all on account of her rather dictatorial cautiousness. But I shall know what to do if ever I am found at Highgate without a lamp on my rear. I shall send an open cheque, "Not to exceed 5s.," and then you will let me off for half-a-crown.

JOHN BULL.

To Capt. Bernard Stewart, Sidney St., Chelsea.

SIR,—You were recently fined £10 at the South-Western Police Court for robbing your blind friend, Captain Crome, of a pair of field-glasses, which you pledged for £2 when you were "hard up." The Magistrate observed that it was a shocking thing to steal from a blind officer, but must have failed to appreciate the meaning of his own words when he fined you a paltry £10. That was an absurdly inadequate punishment for a "shocking" offence—for which reason I give your cowardly theft from a blind brother officer this wide publicity. JOHN BULL.

To the Hon. Mr. Justice Horridge.

MY LORD,—Nothing but good can result from your outspoken comments upon the methods of certain private enquiry agents employed in connection with divorce proceedings. The case in question was one in which a married woman was exposed to a series of odious charges, none of which was satisfactorily established. "I am quite satisfied that this woman never committed misconduct at all," you declared, "and I am perfectly shocked at the lies of these two assistants of a woman who keeps a detective agency." It is an excellent thing that deliberate perjury should be so swiftly and surely detected, and your zeal for the purity of justice is highly to be praised. But is not the matter one for the Public Prosecutor? JOHN BULL.

To Viscountess Astor, M.P., House of Commons, Westminster.

DEAR COLLEAGUE,—Only the other day you wrote to the Press asking to be regarded as a serious Member of Parliament, and not as a curiosity. You followed that by making a speech at the Children's Hospital, winding up with the remark that the Matron's work is the most important part of the institution, adding, "Little do the men realise that. Poor creatures, their numbers are up now!" Am I to take that seriously? First remarking that surgeons and physicians are also rather important parts of a hospital, I would gently insinuate that one swallow does not make a summer. When you took your seat in Parliament, one "poor creature" did, admittedly, take a back seat—the man you beat. But it is long odds that you did not tell the male voters of Plymouth that their numbers were up when you asked for their votes. Also, referring to that racing term, let me point out that, when "the numbers are up" the number of the winner is necessarily among them. JOHN BULL.

To Councillor George Church, Anti-Profiteering Committee, Ilford.

SIR,—You can take the biscuit. Indeed, as Gilbey, the grocer, of Cranbrook Road, may be in a generous mood, the whole lot of the members of the Sub-Committee may have a biscuit each. Biscuits was the case—a tin of lunch biscuits, which Gilbey had the conscience to sell at 1s. 8d. a pound—pre-war price, 3½d. The Bench said he must accept the complainant's evidence. He didn't remember serving her and didn't remember her asking him whether a mistake had been made and his saying it was the correct price; but since the complaint had been made he had gone into the prices and had found that a mistake *had* been made, and—and all the rest of it. You know, sir, as I have said over and over again, that it is always a mistake against the customer, never one in his favour. Yet, instead of making an example by prosecuting this man Gilbey, you go through the ludicrous farce of ordering him to refund 2½d. One almost wearies of watching these profiteering proceedings, conducted as if they were rehearsals in comic opera.

JOHN BULL.

ARE THE MISSING DEAD?

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL IN A MOTHER'S BREAST.

For ourselves, we have never been able to get rid of the suspicion that, of the hundreds of British soldiers reported missing, many are still hidden away by the Huns in mines and camps in Germany of which the Allies know nothing and have been able to discover nothing. Not many days ago a Belgian private soldier named Demonstier arrived in Mons. He had escaped with three others, he explained, from a prisoners' of war camp at Kuedlimburg, in the Hartz Mountains. He asserts that there are still a number of Allied prisoners of war in the camp. Now the Huns undertook to release all Allied captives, and the British Government appear to have settled down to the conviction that all are now in our hands. But if this story is true of Kuedlimburg, it may be true of other secret camps in Germany. If British prisoners are there, it is up to Mr. Churchill to get them home, and get them quick. The Germans are not only convicted liars. They hold themselves under no obligation to tell the truth. It is not improbable that they are holding up numbers of "missing" men as hostages for prisoners in this country who have not been released, because to the Hun every treaty is a scrap of paper and every pledge a reservation. "Our Government seem to have been hoodwinked," an Aberdeen lady writes to us, "and the oft-repeated assertion that our sons are being kept in secret prison camps appears only too true. I am one of the mothers whose sons have been reported missing. I have believed, and still believe, my boy is alive somewhere. Mothers are anxious beings; hope never dies in their hearts." It is not for us to do or say aught to quench that sacred fire. In the name of the mothers of England who still feed it even with their sorrows, we ask the Government to pursue their inquiries and to start with Kuedlimburg. That the task is difficult may be frankly admitted, but the merest hint of suspicion of bad faith in such a matter ought to keep the sleuths of British justice on the track of Hun delinquency.

LEADEN-FOOTED CHARITY.

WAR VETERAN'S WIDOW AND PATRIOTIC FUND.

About seven years ago a South-East London reader was good enough to interest himself in the case of Mrs. Munro, a 70 year old widow, who had successively married two survivors of the Crimean campaign, both husbands having predeceased her; but owing to technical difficulties, the Royal Patriotic Fund officials could not see their way to an immediate grant, and nothing more was heard of the matter until November 25th, 1919, when our informant was favoured with a courteous letter inviting further particulars. "The case," wrote Lieut.-Col. Hood, on behalf of the Secretary, "was brought to notice by you in September, 1912, but unfortunately Mrs. Munro's address was not given." At the same time a fresh form was enclosed, inviting the poor old soul to furnish complete details of her personal history—and to trace her pedigree back to the Garden of Eden or thereabouts—requirements with which she would, no doubt, have done her best to comply, but for the fact that she died four years ago, having been dependent, finally, upon the charity of friends and neighbours. 'Mrs. Munro" we are told, "had a rooted objection to the Workhouse, although she had no relations, and had it not been for the little help her poor neighbours gave her, would have really starved." It was a pity that the officials of the Royal Patriotic Fund did not have Mrs. Munro's address in the first instance, and still more unfortunate that it took them seven years to write and ask for it. A modest grant from the Fund, or even a little sympathetic interest, might have done so much to sweeten the old lady's declining days and turn the edge of the carking sorrow which must have followed her to the grave.

A Mother's Gratitude

for the restoration of her little boy after 4½ years' continuous agony.

Surely the letter recorded below is one of the most striking instances of gratitude ever penned by a thankful mother.

Birtley Villa,

Sondley, Ch. Stretton.

Dear Sirs, I feel I must write and tell you about my little boy now aged 4½ years, who suffered most terribly from eczema from birth. Several Doctors tried everything they could think of, but none of them did him any good. He was in the Royal Infirmary for 11 months and the Doctors there did all they could for him, but he got no better, so I fetched him home and started using Cadum Ointment on him. We began to see an improvement with the first box, so we continued with it.

He was covered from his head to ankles with most terrible eczema. We got no rest night or day, so you may guess our gratitude to Cadum Ointment when we began to get a little rest. You could not imagine a much worse case than our little boy's was. He could not be left a minute or he would tear his flesh off in pieces. Now no one can believe that he is the same child. There isn't even a mark from the most awful scabs he had. His skin is now clean and healthy.

Yours faithfully (Mrs.) M. J. Hall.

There is an irresistible healing power and virtue in Cadum Ointment, due to its unique and unrivalled soothing antiseptic and curative merits, which ensures its success in every conceivable skin disease, disorder, inflammation, irritation or eruption. Not only eczema, chronic or spasmodic, but such cruelly agonising conditions as ulcers and sores, yield to its benevolent agency. Pimples, blotches, burns, cuts, chafing and all other forms of scalp and skin trouble are quickly banished by this marvellous healer. The first application draws out the "fire and sting." The smarting ceases, and the growth of new, healthy skin is at once stimulated

Cadum Ointment

for Skin Troubles

At all Chemists and Drug Stores, 1/3 a box.

SIN IN THE BALL ROOM.

A VICAR'S VIEWS ON CARDS AND DANCING.

We notice that the Rev. L. T. Pearson, B.A., Vicar of St. John the Baptist, Portland, has been letting himself go on the subject of dancing on church premises. "Personally," says the Vicar, in a recent issue of his Parish Magazine, "I feel that there is no place in the work of the Church for dancing, and, as the leader of the spiritual life of our Parish, I cannot allow it." It is not the exercise he objects to, or the late hours, but when young men and women get together—well, then it shocks the dear Vicar even to think of it. "Much of the misery and lovelessness of married life," he declares, "is the result of the ball-room. True love is too deep a reality to be played with in the heat of dancing. Love is of God, and He has better ways of making love known than through the medium of a dance." Whether these "better ways" include loafing in dark lanes and holding hands in the back seats of picture palaces, this confident exponent of the Divine intentions does not stay to inform us. Other iniquities of which he "equally disapproves" are "cards and raffles," so if the Churchwardens of St. John's have ever encouraged either of these wicked devices, it can only be because they were prompted by the Devil. As for the statement that the Rev. Mr. Pearson did in his own saintly person recently aid and abet a guessing competition as to the number of currants in a cake, receiving the entrance fees for the Organ Fund, we have no hesitation in stigmatising it as a base and brutal slander.

STONING THE SWAN.

PALTRY FINE FOR A VANDAL'S BRUTAL ACT.

There is no question where Arthur Langmead, a motor-lorry driver, of Sidmouth, ought to be. That place is gaol. At Ottery St. Mary Petty Sessions, Inspector Dale, of the R.S.P.C.A., prosecuted the man for cruelty to a swan—cruelty as callous as it was wanton. Anybody in the district with even a touch of the sense of the picturesque had an interest in preserving this stately example of a stately genus, for it had come in from the sea, and had made its home in the river Sid. One morning a fisherman saw Langmead making his way to the beach, and greeted him with "What's up this morning?" "I am going to kill the ——— swan," announced Langmead. The man then picked up some big stones and shied them at the bird, which rose from the river and settled farther away. The fisherman then left the scene to go to his brother on the beach. Shortly afterwards he heard a cry—the cry of the swan in its pain. He returned to the place with his brother, and found the brute still stoning the poor creature—stoning it to death. "I'm going to kill the ——— and take it home and eat it," Langmead said on remonstrance; adding that, if the fisherman didn't shut up he would serve him as he was serving the swan—at which Langmead continued to throw stone after stone. Eventually his object was accomplished, and when last the fisherman saw the poor victim of this heartless cruelty "it was lying helpless at the entrance to the river surrounded by gulls." Every bone in the swan's body had in his opinion been broken to pulp, was the evidence of one witness. In face of all this, the impudence of the man's defence was amazing. The bird, he argued, must be produced in proof of cruelty. The Chairman of Magistrates, Mr. A. T. Loram, eventually announced that the case was fully proved, and that Langmead would be fined £3 10s. inclusive of costs—with time to pay. It is a miscarriage of justice, a premium on inhumanity. Langmead ought to have been served as all such heartless, inhuman people should be served. Gaol being his deserts, to gaol he should have gone without the option. The leniency of the Bench in the case is not less ludicrous than it is lamentable.

IF THE KING KNEW!

A SCANDAL OF THE ROYAL MEWS—SCURVY TREATMENT OF OLD SOLDIER AND AGED WIDOW.

THERE is no one who dares question our loyalty to the King. And it is just because of that loyalty that we are deliberately exposing this scandal of the Royal Mews. We could hide it up. We could write personally to Lord Stamfordham—His Majesty's Private Secretary—a man of wide sympathy and understanding. If we did, we are certain that the grievance we are about to deal with would be immediately remedied. But we prefer to make it public. Why? Because publicity will, we are certain, effect a lasting change and a different kind of treatment for that humble section of the King's servants who work in the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace, than has been meted out to F. E. Holden.

Who is Holden? He is a man who left the King's service to fight in the war, and he has been dismissed from that service because he is unable to work the hours and perform the duties of which he was capable before the war. He went into the Royal Fusiliers - Category A—he came out, after serving nearly 2¼ years in France, marked B.3. And early in March, this year, Holden restarted his work as groom in the Royal Mews. What had happened between October, 1914, when Holden joined up, and going back to his work at Buckingham Palace? A good many things the principal being that Holden was not the man he had been. He couldn't stand the long hours; he was troubled by the fact that owing to the tram service he had to journey all the way from Islington, at a quarter to four in the morning, in order to reach the Palace Mews by 6 o'clock, and his sturdy little wife tried to help him by securing accommodation on the Prince of Wales's estate in Kennington. That was impossible, as the Crown Equerry wrote from the Office of the Master of the Horse, on November 15th: "There is no accommodation available on His Royal Highness's Estate; indeed, it has been found necessary to refuse a great many previous applications." But another letter from the same official came on that very date. Mrs. Holden, in asking for accommodation, if possible, in Kennington, had pointed out that, owing to the distance from his work, and his indifferent health due to the war - Holden would assuredly break down unless he could live nearer his work, and get further rest. You see, not only is the Royal Mews' day one of twelve hours—6 to 6—but that often means 7 or 8 p.m., and one night a week every man has to take his turn to stay late, which meant that on such occasions Holden never left before 11 o'clock. Sometimes he was so late that he slept in the harness-room, making himself as comfortable as might be with a form and some horse-rugs.

But the wife, with three children to look after, by the way (we will come later to the money question), had made this effort to get Holden nearer his work. The effort failed; but it did more, it brought what they regard as dismissal. Here is the letter which was sent to the wife:—

> Master of the Horse Office,
> Royal Mews,
> Buckingham Palace, S.W.
> 15th November, 1919.
>
> MADAM,—I am very sorry to hear you give such a bad report of your husband and I quite understand that the early hours that he necessarily has to attend here are difficult for him. Unfortunately it is quite impossible, I understand, to get lodgings nearer to the Mews, and I think myself, under the circumstances, he will be able to find work more congenial to him where he would not have to keep such early hours. Such being the case, I would propose to grant him a pension of about £10 per annum, which, under ordinary circumstances, he would not be eligible for.—Yours faithfully,
>
> C. FITZWILLIAM,
> Captain and Crown Equerry.

Mark that letter on the face of it it is kindly and considerate—with no sting in its tail, but a magnanimous offer of four shillings a week pension - quite two current value. Perhaps it never occurred to the Captain and Crown Equerry that this man, broken in the war, not only a soldier of the King but a servant of the King, did not want to be dismissed, even on so fat a pension. Perhaps it never crossed the mind of the Captain and Crown Equerry that possibly in the service of the Sovereign for whom he had wrought and fought some work "more congenial to him" might be found, and work "where he would not have to keep such early hours." If these quite ordinary thoughts flashed through the mind of the Captain and Crown Equerry, he put them from him. Holden couldn't leave home at 3.45 a.m. and leave work at any time from 6 to 11 p.m.; he wasn't up to it. And so dismissal—yes, dismissal—and that wonderful pension. Holden was called into the Office a fortnight after receiving that sympathetic letter, on Tuesday, December 1st, and Captain Benbow, Superintendent of the Stables, handed him £1 1s. 7d., being the proportion of his wages up to that date. Not even a week's notice—or money in lieu. He was told that his pension—Oh! that pension—would start on the following Monday.

Let us turn for a moment to the money side of this story of the Royal Mews, and see how Mr. and Mrs. Holden and their children will fare. Holden went into the King's service in 1911, as helper in the stables. His wages were 22s. a week, with accommodation. A year later he married, and was granted leave to live out. Wages, 22s. a week *without* accommodation and *with* a wife. Then came the war, and the fighting, and the one bright spot in this story. During all the time Holden was in the Army his wife received his 22s. a week—in addition to the Separation Allowance—financially the time of her life. Suffering from shell-shock and general debility, the War Office awarded him a pension of £1 10s. 11d. He restarted work at Buckingham Palace on £2 5s. a week—in value round about that 22s. pre-war—raised later to £2 10s. 5d. Now he is out of a job, in poor health, and with his family living on 35s. a week. We say quite candidly that a King's Servant, apart from being a King's Soldier, deserves better treatment. Another case which has come before us concerns an old widow, Mrs. McQueen, over 70 and nearly blind, who, with her late husband, has served a total of over 30 years in the Royal Mews. She has been compelled to relinquish her job, owing to ill-health, and the authorities grant her a pension of 8s. a week! Is this liberal treatment? It is on a par with that meted out to Holden.

Those responsible for the conduct of the Royal Mews should set an example to all employers, because it is the King's Service they are administering. We know that His Majesty would desire that those who have served him and fought for him should be liberally and sympathetically treated. Who can pretend that these qualities are conspicuous in the treatment of Holden—or in the parsimony displayed towards the widow McQueen?

DISCHARGED YET IMPRISONED.

CAT-AND-MOUSE PROCEEDINGS AT PETTY SESSIONS.

At the time of his recent election, the Mayor of Ilkeston, Mr. Councillor E. Smith, was understood to state that "it would be his endeavour to uphold the dignity of the Magisterial Bench and to the best of his ability to be in all his decisions impartial and fair-minded." We are bound therefore to conclude that the Mayor was absent from the Chair the other day, when it fell to the Ilkeston Justices to deal with Alfred Nix, charged with stealing a few sticks worth 5s. 9d. On promising to turn over a new leaf, the defendant was cautioned and discharged; but hardly had the poor fellow left the dock when he was called back, and graciously informed that, the Justices having "changed their minds," he would go to prison for a week. This cruel cat-and-mouse proceeding may have been a good enough joke for some of those present in Court, to whom, no doubt, the spectacle of the Magistrates making fools of themselves was a lively entertainment, but it was no joke to the unhappy defendant, whose offence was apparently of the most trivial description. To prevent such irregularities for the future, it may be as well for Mr. Smith, as Chief Magistrate, to be as regular as possible in his attendance at the Police Court, with a view to justifying his election promise.

A SKIMPY SHILLINGSWORTH.

PAYING FOR FREE-OF-CHARGE LESSONS.

A curious plan of campaign is worked by G. Gladstone Burness, Commercial Accountant, 3, Cannon Street, E.C. He somehow secured the address of a clerk who had answered advertisements, and wrote him to say that a "large commercial house" was about to increase its staff. The house used "a certain system of account keeping," and he, Burness, was open to teach that system. He would do so, "Absolutely Free of Charge," in eight postal lessons. All he required was eight stamped envelopes—or 1s. 1½d., the price thereof. Our reader, a demobilised soldier, sent 1s. 2d. for the "eight postal lessons," and, after writing again for them he got them. The, occupy, all told, two pages of flimsy paper, are written in pencil, and they came -8 lessons in 2 pages—all in one envelope. Apparently, G. Gladstone Burness pockets a shilling over a transaction which is "absolutely free of charge." He has been asked for fuller information, including the name of the firm he professes to be accommodating, but he has not condescended to reply. He does not wish to spend another 1½d. for a stamp, evidently. It is a petty way of picking up shillings, but shillings are scarce with some folk, and for their guidance we have outlined Mr. Burness' scheme, which is none too profitable to them.

OUR CHRISTMAS POOR FUND.

YULETIDE GIFTS FOR THE LONDON POOR.

For some years past it has been our habit to appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, during the Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the East-end poor. Our system has been to apply money entrusted to us in the purchase of meat, bread, groceries, coal, etc., by means of orders upon local tradesmen, thus enabling the recipients to enjoy the food and fuel and other comforts in their own homes, with their families—as we are sure our readers desire.

We also appeal for left-off and unwanted clothing of all shapes and sizes. A band of willing workers will carefully sort the articles into suitable lots. Toys, too—however old—are always welcome for the little ones, and the same remark applies to oranges, sweets, crackers—in short, to anything likely to bring a little happiness and sunshine during Christmas time into the homes of the poor.

Every subscription and gift will be gratefully received, and acknowledged.

Subscriptions should be forwarded direct to our Offices, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2., but all parcels of goods, etc., should be sent to the JOHN BULL Depot, 25, Church Road, Homerton, E.9.

Please help us.

"The twopenny cigar with the tenpenny flavour"

THERE'S a little "Manikin" waiting for you on your tobacconist's counter—a jolly little fellow with a tenpenny flavour, and he only costs you **2d.**

He costs you so little because he is made from the small delicate leaves of choice tobaccos which are not large enough to be worked up into big-cigars.

We buy these little leaves in enormous quantities, and work them up, with all our expert knowledge of eight years in cigar manufacturing, into the good-looking, pleasant-flavoured little "Manikin" cigars.

Get a package to-day, and treat yourself to the best value in the cigar-world:

They are manufactured by
J.R.FREEMAN&SON.Ltd
Cigar Manufacturers
PULTON·PLACE·WALHAM
GREEN·LONDON·S.W.6.
Established in 1839.

Fine!

It's Goodall's Custard

A GOLDEN TREAT—delicious, wholesome, nourishing Goodall's Custard. Try it with fresh, preserved, or dried fruit, or as a delicious sauce with puddings or pies Made in a few minutes. Children love it—and it's good for them—so nourishing. Don't worry when they ask for more, and more and more—such a pure, wholesome product can do nothing but good.

But be sure you ask for Goodall's Custard Powder—there is nothing else quite like it—nothing so rich or so wholesome.

Ask your Grocer for a Packet to-day.

GOODALL'S Custard Powder

PACKETS 7½d. and 1/3 (AND IN LARGE TINS)

GOODALL'S JELLY CRYSTALS

No injurious artificial flavours or colourings are ever put into Goodall's Jelly Crystals; therefore they are the most wholesome and delicious.

Ask your Grocer for a Packet.

Per Packet 9d.

GOODALL'S EGG POWDER

New Laid Eggs are not required for pastries, puddings, cakes, etc., if you use Goodall's Egg Powder, and yet the result is just as light and wholesome.

Large Packets, 1½d.
Tins, 8d. and 1/4.

Yorkshire Relish

The Most Delicious Sauce in the World.

Still up to its pre-war level—still the "Most Delicious Sauce in the World." Its unique appetising flavour makes a world of difference to broths and stews, and all kinds of meat, fish or fowl, hot or cold. Try it!

Prices 10½d., 1/9 and 3/6 per bottle from your Grocer.

GOODALL, BACKHOUSE & CO., LEEDS.

Sole Proprietors of Yorkshire Relish.

TO THE TRADE

The National Window-Dressing Competition.

All the above lines are eligible for displays in connection with the JOHN BULL *Window-dressing Competition, and we shall be glad to assist any competitor by sending showcards, cartons or other display material on request.*

GOODALL, BACKHOUSE & CO.

RETURN YOUR BOTTLES

Your Grocer will be glad to pay you 1d. for each empty Yorkshire Relish bottle you return. See how many you can find,—take them to your grocer to-day and turn them into money.

BAD BOYS AND WORSE MAGISTRATES.

SHAMEFUL PUNISHMENT OF A NINE-YEAR-OLD.

This is a short resumé of a case which Colonel J. E. B. Bowden, Chairman of the Eckington Magistrates, recently announced that the Bench had decided to dismiss. The defendants were two little fiends of Hoathorpe, aged 9 and 12. "One of them," said a smaller boy who was an eye-witness, "got a rabbit out of its hutch, threw it on the floor, and broke its front legs. He then lit a candle with a match, and lighted some paper. They burned the rabbit's head in the flames and afterwards killed it." If ever boys were possessed of devils, these surely are well-furnished. A well-deserved birching might have whipped the evil spirits out of them. It was worth the experiment, anyway.

Comparisons, we are told, are odious. Contrast the decision in this shocking case with that of the Ashford Magistrates, whose names we do not know, in the charges made against Willie Ernest Sawyer, 9½, and Edward Wilkinson, 12, in the Juvenile Court. Sawyer "entered the premises of a local newspaper with intent to steal," and together they stole threepence from a meter in the Ashford Market lavatory. It is wicked for little boys to do such things, no doubt, but even 9½-year-old burglars are surely entitled to one chance of redemption. A "good talking to" by the Magistrates, followed by a good whipping at home, would have amply satisfied justice in the case. The Magistrates, having quite other ideas, sent both boys to an industrial school until they were 16, and ordered the younger one three strokes of the birch. We agree with Mr. Sawyer, the father, that it is a hard, harsh, and unjustifiable sentence. While he had been serving as he still serves his country with the Colours, this child has simply got a little out of hand, and paternal control would soon put him in the right way again. To send him to an industrial school, where he must necessarily associate with many boys of various character and birch him in addition is vindictive punishment of which these Ashford Magistrates ought to feel thoroughly ashamed. We doubt, indeed, whether they are fit and proper persons to adjudicate in a Children's Court at all.

THE GERMAN BARBER.

NOT DEPORTED, BUT GRANTED A LICENCE!

There was a meeting the other day of the Tunbridge Wells Employment Exchange. The most interesting business was an application by a gentleman who desired to open a hairdresser's business. He is F. Tegal, of 24, Princess Street, and he wanted to start a barber's shop in George Street, Tunbridge Wells. He applied under the Retail Business Licensing Order, and it will be remembered that we have reported many cases under that Order where, in different parts of the Kingdom, permission to open has been refused to *bona fide* Britons. But F. Tegal, 51, is of German nationality, and for one-and-a-half years has been "doing work of national importance in a military camp." Sir Robert Gower, having investigated, said there might be considerable feeling in the district if the Permit were given.

The Chief Constable reported that Tegal was not naturalised, his wife was German by birth, and there were five children, the eldest son being a hairdresser in Switzerland. And, the Chief Constable concluded: "There was no reason why a Licence should not be granted." Just to state our own opinion in passing, we think that Chief Constable had stated several reasons why it should not be granted in the few remarks he made. Councillor Berwick had the sense to question if it would be in the man's own interest to give him a licence, but, on the proposition of Mr. Geer, that thick-headed Committee of Tunbridge Wells decided "to recommend that the licence be granted." The decision makes one shudder at such a stultification of the national honour and at so barefaced a repudiation of the pledge that aliens were to be deported. F. Tegal, German, should be granted a licence to take his German wife home to Germany, with free permission to start his barber's shop there—or, if he prefer, in Switzerland, alongside his son. To allow him to set up in opposition to the shops of demobilised men of Kent is nothing short of an outrage. Even when, at the end of the year, this licensing system is abolished, it should be impossible for such people as Tegal to trade in rivalry to ex-soldiers.

BENEFITS FORGOT.

HARD LOT OF AN EX-OFFICER.

Dr. Johnson, in one of his cynical moods, defined patriotism as "the last refuge of a scoundrel"; and the treatment meted out to some of our young soldiers who sacrificed position and prospects to fight for the Old Country in the cause of civilisation, suggests that certain Government Departments are inclined to the Lexicographer's view, and regard the ex-service man accordingly. How else could the following happen?—A Marine Surveyor to the Rangoon Port Commission, Burma, immediately after the outbreak of war, sacrificed a lucrative post, obtained leave (*without pay*), sailed for England, and enlisted in the Army, serving 10 months in the ranks of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders, and going through the second battle of Ypres. He then received a commission in the Yorkshires, with whom he saw active service on the Somme. Transferred to the R.F.C., for 16 months he held the rank of Flying Officer (Pilot), and was discharged on account of disability in February, 1918, with 3 years' service to his credit. He then obtained a post as Assistant in the Oils and Seeds Supply Section of the Ministry of Food, and acted in that capacity for 18 months. Now is where the callousness of the Ministry comes in. The Oil and Seeds Section was demobilised, and the hero of this story applied for a transfer to some other branch of the Ministry. It was refused, and the victim of official indifference left without means after sacrificing a bright future for his country.

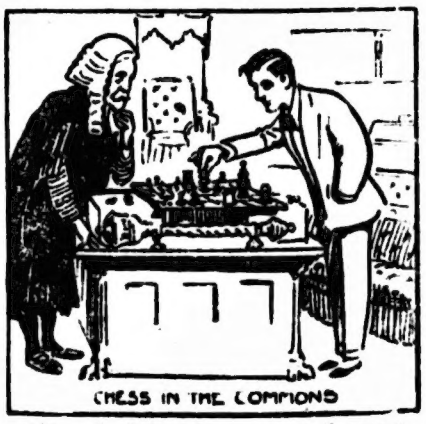
The wicked part of the business is that the Ministry still employs a mob of non-Service men of military age who succeeded in dodging the Army. They remain snug in their jobs, while the man who thought only of his country and nothing of himself, is turned away. On the other hand, many of those who—although nominally in the Army during the war—had soft billets in various non-fighting corps, are also being kept on in well-paid positions. Equity suggests that, at the very least, those who have borne the heat and burden of the day should rest in any "shade" which may be obtainable in the way of official appointments. "To the victors, the spoils!"

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

The Huns will not accept defeat:
Must we the knock-out blow repeat?

Prize Bonds with a setback have met,
But we shall have them yet, you bet!

The ironmoulders' strike will cause
In every industry a pause.



Although their moves are not the same,
The Speaker's is the bigger game.

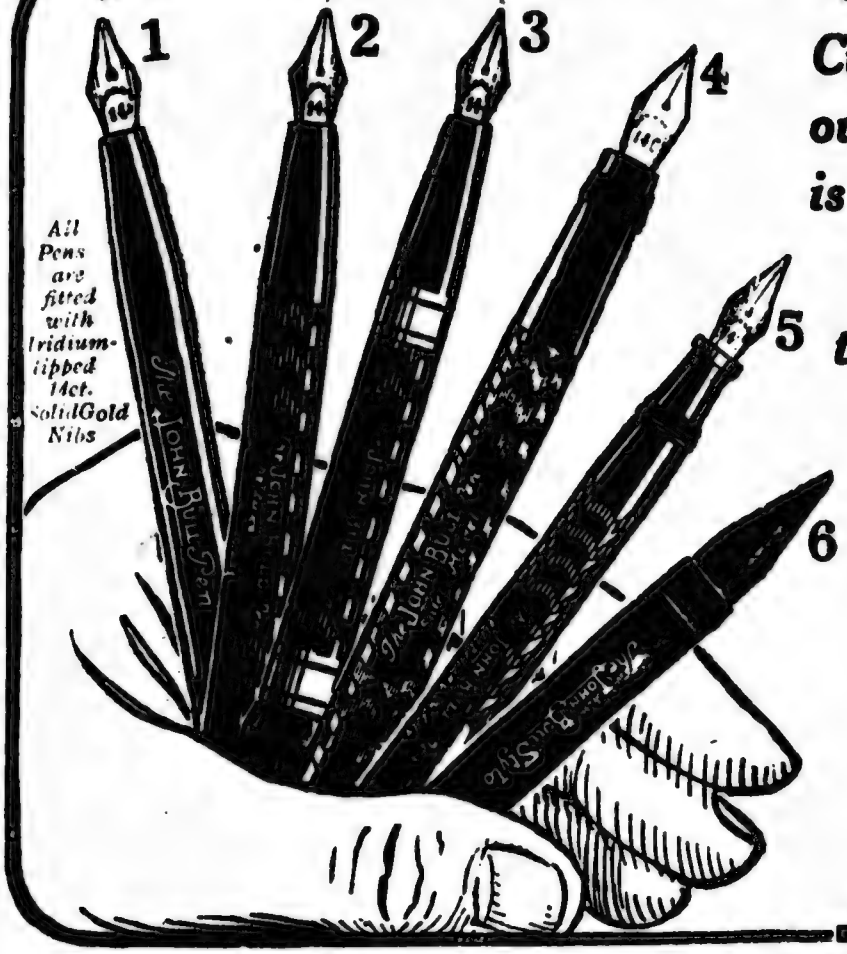
King Victor, for the time at least,
Has scotched the Bolshevistic beast.

When bullish natures chance to clash,
The upshot's usually a hash!

The bricklayer eyes the passing "tin,"
And mutters, "Where do *I* come in?"

The limpets get the word to quit,
But where they sat before, still sit!

Your Xmas Gift from "John Bull"



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Xmas, 1919

This Coupon entitles the holder to a "John Bull" Pen at the special rates set out below and is equivalent in value to **One Shilling.**

Only one coupon will be taken in part payment for each pen, and is available to December 31st 1919

£0-1-0 — Signed, The Manager

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"J. B." Pens are equal in every respect to the very much higher priced pens so extensively advertised.

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No. 1.	**"STANDARD" MODEL** Thoroughly reliable.	Price 3/3	**2/3**
No. 2.	**"DE LUXE" MODEL** Superior Finish.	Price 4/6	**3/6**
No. 3.	**"PRESENTATION" MODEL** Mounted with 9ct. Rolled Gold Band.	Price 6/-	**5/-**
No. 4.	**"SAFETY" MODEL** Disappearing Nib. Ideal for Travelling.	Price 6/-	**5/-**
No. 5.	**"SELF-FILLING" MODEL** Patent Self-filling Lever & Screw Cap.	Price 7/-	**6/-**
No. 6.	**"STYLO" MODEL** The best obtainable.	Price 3/6	**2/6**

Postage and Insurance 3d. extra on each Pen.

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Extra Large. Green Band

VIRGINIA CIGARETTES

Full and fragrant, yet mild and sweet.

10 FOR 5½d.

(Medium 10 for 4½d.)

HIGHEST QUALITY BIGGEST VALUE

The thrifty smoker's everyday smoke.

IN THE HOUSE.

THE FARCE OF THE PREMIUM BOND DEBATE.

WHEN I put down my Notice of Motion calling upon the Government to make an early issue of Premium Bonds, as many as 250 members of the House had signed a Memorial in favour of this scheme, whilst many more had expressed themselves as favourable to it. On the division 84 voted for the motion and 276 against. And the bulk of the speeches were in favour of it! Here, then, is a nice little lesson for the student of modern politics. It demonstrates the fact that the House of Commons, under the existing Party system, is not permitted to have any mind of its own—that it is gagged and held at the mercy of the Treasury Bench. It will be remembered that, in order to afford Members an opportunity of giving "a free and unbiased opinion" upon the subject, the Government agreed to take off its Whips and to leave the House at liberty to vote exactly it chose, without any official pressure being brought upon it. And yet no sooner had the Motion been moved and seconded than up jumped the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to tell Members that he felt it his duty to warn them against the scheme, and in his official capacity to do everything in his power to defeat it. Members listened with amazement to this declaration—more especially as not long ago Mr. Chamberlain had expressed himself in favour of the issue. They began asking each other how, consistently with their loyalty to the Coalition, they could support the proposal; but by degrees, as speaker after speaker riddled the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, they veered round again to my side, and it soon seemed that the Resolution would be carried by an overwhelming majority. And what do you think happened then? Mr. Bonar Law was hurriedly sent for, and after Sir W. Hume-Williams had, as we all thought, wound up the debate in a strong and closely reasoned speech, pointing out the advantage of the proposed issue, the Leader of the House sprang to his feet, and in effect told it that if the Motion were carried it would be tantamount to a vote of censure upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer!—whereupon scores of members expressed to me their regret at being compelled to go back upon their explicit pledges—with the result already referred to.

What has been the effect upon War Loan stocks? Let me quote from the *Times*. On Monday, whilst the debate was in progress and everyone expected Premium Bonds to come, we read "VICTORY BONDS STRONG." After the Chancellor's speech the market report stated: "Following a firm opening the tendency of stock markets generally became easier towards the close"—the day's transactions being thus summarised: "The feature in the market for Home Government securities was the strength of Victory Bonds, the price closing ¼ higher at 81⅛, business having been marked at 82. War Loan Five per Cents marked 91½, and the price closed ½ higher than on the previous day." Then came the speech of Mr. Bonar Law and the defeat of the Motion, and here is the eloquent summary of Tuesday: "GILT-EDGED STOCKS GIVE WAY." On Wednesday it was: "GILT-EDGED STOCKS AGAIN LOWER," and on Thursday: "WAR LOAN LOW RECORD," the following being the *Times* summary: "A further decline took place in gilt-edged securities and final prices were not far removed from the lowest points of the day. The War Loan was sold down to 90—the lowest price yet touched, and the final price of 90⅛ showed a decline of 5-16ths on the day. Funding Loan, after marking 75¼, was sold at 74, closing ⅜ lower at 74⅛, and Victory Bonds were ¼ lower at 80⅜. Several of the National War Five per Cent. Bonds declined ½. And the docile Party hacks, who were like a flock of sheep into the Lobby against Premium Bonds, warned us that their adoption would injure the credit of the nation! As a matter of fact, exactly what I predicted has come true.

The City now sees that the Government is determined to adhere to the old conventional humdrum methods of finance, with the result that Investors are selling out their present stocks in order to place the proceeds in the great French Premium Bond issue about to be made—with the appalling result that, although when the last Loan was floated the public were assured that never again would such favourable terms be offered them, every issue is now at a heavy discount. In other words, British credit stands at its lowest ebb, all the holders of Government Stock being apprehensive of capital levies and other fantastic nostrums; whilst France, despite her parlous financial condition—the value of the franc having declined to forty for the sovereign as against twenty-five before the war—will be able to raise all the money she requires.

And the fraud and farce of the whole thing is accentuated by the fact that, although several Ministers who were known to be in favour of Premium Bonds were present throughout the Debate, not one of them dared to open his lips, and all refrained from voting. However, as will be seen elsewhere, I do not intend to take my beating lying down. I shall do my best in every way within the law to afford my readers an opportunity of indulging in this exhilarating form of investment, and I shall begin by assisting them to participate in the great French Loan.

I make no excuse for confining my review this week to this particular subject.

A PROMISE DISHONOURED.

VICIOUS PROCEEDINGS BY MANSFIELD GUARDIANS.

The appointment of a sub-Registrar of Births and Deaths at Mansfield was shamelessly wangled by the Board of Guardians. In advertising the vacancy, worth £220 a year, the Guardians led off with a veneer of righteousness: "Preference will be given to candidates who have served in H.M. Forces." But it was never intended to keep the promise. When the Guardians met to vote, Mr. Percival at once said they were not to be "misled" by that recommendation. Mr. Maddock added that "the stay-at-homes" ought to be considered. They had made "great sacrifices." Mr. Beeton said they ought not to disqualify a man who had remained at home. So, after that chorus, it was perfectly evident which way the wind blew. Six selected candidates were interviewed. In the war one of them had lost a leg, one his right arm, another had an injured hand, and a fourth had suffered as the result of service. But one of the six, named Miller, had stayed safely at home and helped the Clerk to the Guardians. So that hero secured 28 votes, and Mr. Brooks, who had sacrificed a leg, was next with only three.

Miller made a speech, in which he said that the Guardians "had always been most kind to him." But their affection blossomed into a betrayal of all those good men and true who had been promised an opportunity of earning their living—an opportunity flatly denied them, and a promise that the Guardians never intended to honour. No wonder there is much local indignation, and that a petition is to be presented to the Registrar-General, asking him to withhold his sanction to the appointment. A true member of the "Church Militant"—the Rev. W. B. Soole, the "parson-gunner"—threatens, if matters are not put right, to take "direct action" by refusing to send to the Registrar every quarter his marriage returns!

THE UNION AND THE SOLDIER.

AN ANCIENT SCANDAL IN A NEW SETTING.

Another way in which Trade Union rules may operate to the detriment of the discharged soldier is seen in the case of a Tunbridge Wells reader who, after a spell in the Army, finds it impossible to return to his old employment on the railway. The London, Brighton and South Coast Company are quite willing to put him back in his old job as an engine-driver; it is the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, under Mr. J. Bromley, that bars the way. The driver's statement is that, wishing to join the Forces, and knowing that the recruiting authorities at that date had instructions from the Government to decline the services of railwaymen, he so far forgot the illustrious example of George Washington as to resign his employment upon the pretext of "bettering his position." That he did in fact join the Army, in which he served for three years and eight months, is evidenced by his discharge papers.

However, as unfortunately his intentions were not stated correctly when he gave up railway work, the fact of his having left to join the Army does not appear on the records of the Railway Company. In the meantime, unfortunately, the L.B.S.C. Ry. Co. have concluded an agreement with the A.S.L.E. & F. that they will admit to their employment only ex-railwaymen shown on their books as having served with the Colours; and when our friend applies to the Society, stating the facts, and offering his discharge papers for inspection, all he gets for his pains is a pencilled note scrawled across the back of his letter—"Regret we cannot do anything in your case—against our agreement." We respectfully submit to Mr. J. Bromley and his colleagues that, for a man who has served his country faithfully and well, such treatment is not good enough and fans still lingering public resentment.

EJECTMENT ORDERS AND EVICTIONS.

STRIKING CASES FROM BRADFORD AND BIRMINGHAM

Ejectment Orders and evictions are too sadly common, and we receive many affecting accounts of proceedings utterly unjustifiable in present conditions. There was one case at Bradford the other day where, in the early morning, a father, mother, and ten children were turned into the street with their belongings ejected into the bleak cold and fog. To make the picture complete must be added the fact that a son, long a prisoner of war, had but just returned home—to one of the homes he went to fight for—only to find it broken up and scattered under the open sky. While the father stood guard over his furniture, some good Samaritan came along with the offer of temporary shelter for him and his, and the poor fellow burst into tears. Such, you see, is the law of the land!

In another case—this time at Birmingham—a soldier returned to resume his business as a packing-case maker. He had suffered eleven wounds, being hit in nearly every part of his body. But he battled with all that, and was pulling his old trade together, employing a number of other wounded and partly-disabled men. His landlord applied for an Ejectment Order, as he needed the premises for the extension of his own business. The County Court Judge was most sympathetic in his words, but he said he had no option but to make the Order, and that man had to go. The landlord did certainly offer to let him remain in the house, at a rent to be agreed, and not to claim the yard for three months, and for those small mercies we yield such thanks as they merit. But, when the yard *is* claimed, with it goes the trade of the ex-soldier with eleven wounds. And somehow we attach more importance to that man's rebuilding of his old business than we do to the extension of the landlord's premises, however valuable be his financial interests.

Run Down?

"How is it," the Cocoa Nibs enquired,
"You never stop work and you don't get tired?"
"Because," said the clock, "there's a man in town
"Who winds me up when I get run down!"
"That's just like grannie!" the Nibs cried out.
"She said that Cocoa was best, no doubt
"Because, when you're feeling run down, a cup
"Of Rowntree's Cocoa will wind you up!"

(To be continued.) R. ARKELL.

ROWNTREE'S Cocoa is extremely welcome to old people. It is so nourishing, and throws no strain on the digestion.

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Next time you feel "fagged out," try what a good hot cup of Rowntree's will do for you.

Rowntree's Cocoa

ELECT

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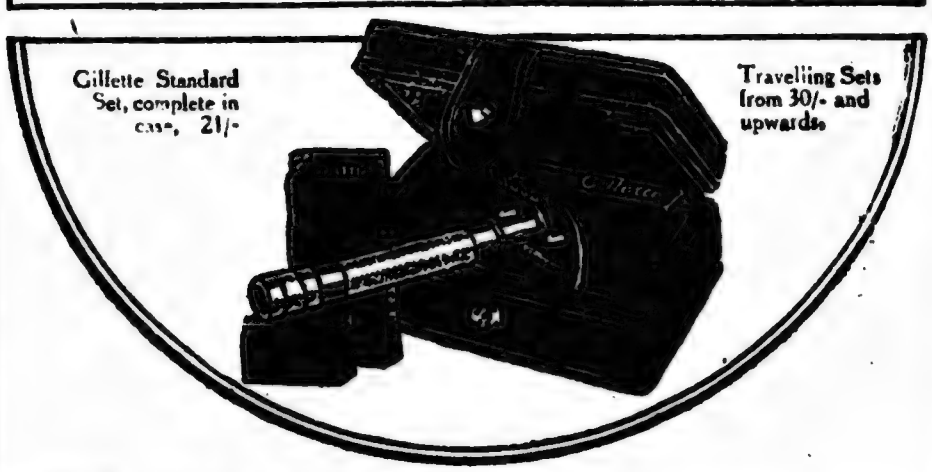
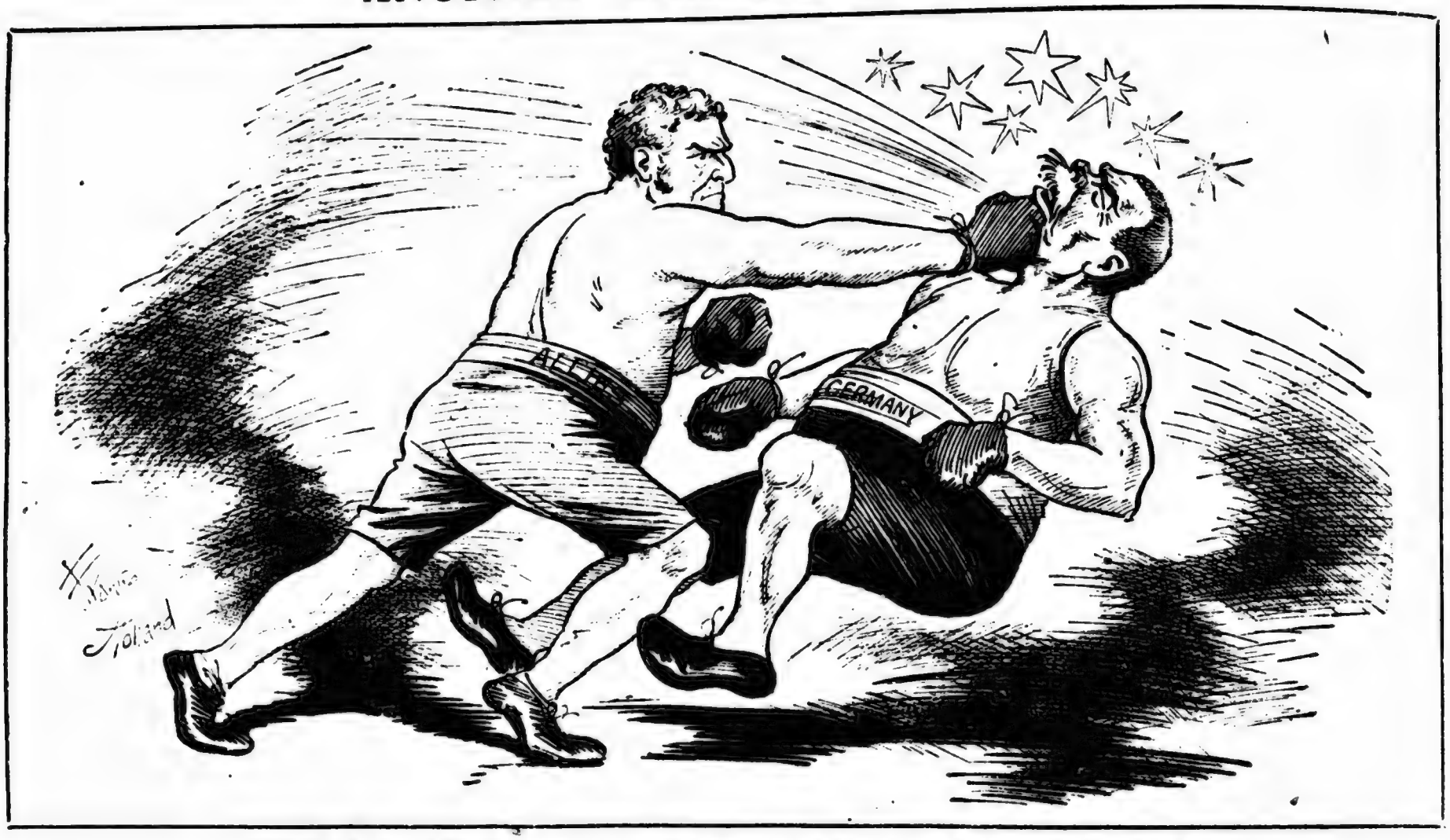


ANOTHER KNOCK-OUT BLOW!



JOHN BULL (To Germany):—"I knew you'd got to have it—There it is!"

A MISTAKEN POLICY.

BARNARDO'S REFUSE CHILD'S RELEASE.

The line that the Barnardo's Homes authorities are in the habit of taking in respect of the children entrusted to their care is illustrated in the following letter from the Secretary, dealing with the case of a boy approaching the age of 14 years:—

> In reply to your letter respecting . . . I may say that he is boarded out in the care of a foster-mother in the county of Sussex, and that it is against our practice to give the address of children boarded out, unless it is a question of a visit being paid. In the meantime you may rely on our seeing that all letters sent to 18, Stepney Causeway, for the boy, will be duly forwarded to him.

We still think, while recognising to the full the excellent philanthropic work carried on by this institution, that this is a profoundly mistaken policy. To the woman to whom it was addressed, the above letter came as a severe disappointment. Her son's admission to the Homes, which took place only four years ago, was not due to any culpable neglect on her part, but to difficulties arising when her husband joined the Army; and now that the home circumstances are again normal, the couple are naturally anxious to have the boy back or at least to have some voice in shaping his future career. If it could be shown that for any reason it was undesirable for the youngster to return to his home as, for instance, if he had been formerly ill-treated, or if the parents were of dissolute habits it might be another matter, but unless the Barnardo authorities are prepared with some such objection, their attitude amounts to a serious invasion of parental rights. It is a pity that the rules of an institution like the Barnardo Homes should reflect, in however mild a degree, the scandal we have so often denounced in the case of the Industrial Schools.

MAGISTERIAL FOLLY.

STIGMA OF CONVICTION FOR FROLICSOME YOUTHS.

At the Penge Police Court, the other morning, nine boys and a girl, ranging in age from 16 to 19 years, were convicted and fined 30s., upon the heinous charge of making a noise in the Beckenham Road. It was not a case in which any members of the public had complained of being annoyed or disturbed; the only evidence against the defendants was the uncorroborated testimony of a couple of plain-clothes policemen, who had evidently been looking for trouble, and whose statements, apparently, were accepted and acted upon without a single question from the Bench. Having been at some pains to collect the facts from independent sources, we gather that, after an early visit to the Penge Empire, the young people had returned together along the Beckenham Road, in a merry mood, indulging in snatches of song, and winding up with a bit of a dance in the roadway. There were very few people about at the time; no one complained of being molested or inconvenienced; and apart from the vague and uncorroborated statement of the police that "obscene language" had been used, there was nothing that could reasonably be construed as "unlawful conduct." This, forsooth, was the "crime" for which ten respectable young people, none of whom had been in any sort of trouble before, were fined 30s., with the alternative of 16 days' imprisonment, a week being allowed them to find the money. These sentences were scandalous; a few words of reprimand would have more than met the case. Even if they are old women now, the Penge Magistrates must have been boys once, and should have more sympathy with the frolicsome spirit of youth—which *will* express itself in such ebullitions as characterised this case.

WAITING FOR THE CROCKERY.

PAYING IN ADVANCE FOR POTS AND PANS.

A newly-married soldier, setting up housekeeping, ordered all his china-ware from the Hanover Pottery Co., Burslem, and sent them a remittance of over £7 cash in advance. That was early in July. After writing and wiring, he got a postcard, dated 25th July, saying, "Your goods will leave here next week . . . Sorry for delay which is unavoidable." However, the goods did not turn up, so presumably they did not leave Burslem as promised. More writing by the customer produced another postcard: "Your goods will leave here next week without fail," and the same old stereotyped postcard came in like a chorus:—"Sorry for delay which is unavoidable." That was dated 26th August. Being tired of waiting, he wrote a letter of protest and, later on, in September, he got the goods he had paid for in July. Some pieces were broken, some missing, and the others disappointing in being different from what was ordered. However, he remains without remedy, responsibility for breakages being disowned, and missing articles accounted for by the statement that they were out of stock and so his money had been "absorbed" in the "best way possible." The matter is one of delay, inconvenience, and dissatisfaction, and, as such, is one more instance of the danger of paying in advance for goods not seen. The system is advantageous to traders, but is apt gravely to disappoint a customer who so parts with his money. Unfortunately, the tactics described are characteristic of several other much advertised "pottery by post" concerns which we have from time to time felt called upon to criticise in an even more outspoken manner than this Burslem firm. There is much wisdom in the cautionary adage regarding buying a "pig in a poke."

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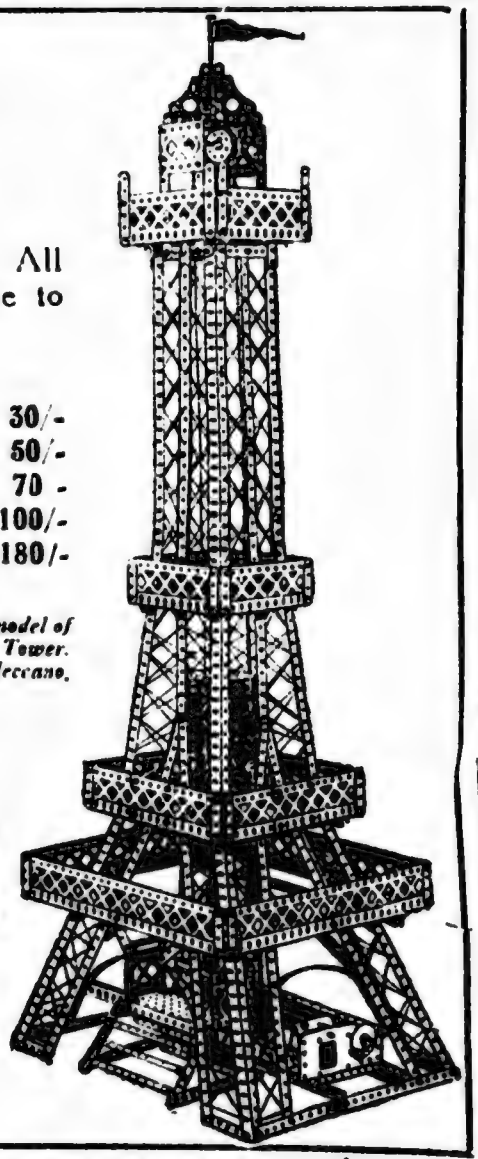

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SEND AN ARMY

Germany's Sham Repentance—Huns' Cha

By THE ED

FAR more important than any aspect of the political situation in this country is the sinister trend of events in Germany which darkens the European outlook and threatens the new-found peace of the western world. A few days ago all thoughtful citizens were startled by an amazing bulletin issued by the Secretary of State for War, a *communiqué*—to use the old war-time term—which within its brief compass contained more food for serious reflection than any other Government pronouncement since the signing of the Armistice a year ago. Its exact terms were as follows:—"Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, left for Paris yesterday, having received an urgent summons to consult with Marshal Foch in connection with the Peace Treaty." It is possible, of course, that by the time these lines appear my readers may be in receipt of fuller information than is at present before the public, as to the reasons underlying this "urgent summons," but I cannot resist commenting upon the appalling irony of the situation which, five months after the formal signing of the Peace Treaty, requires the foregathering of what can have been nothing less than an Allied Council of War. We may be perfectly certain that in any messages issued to the public by the War Office, there will be no exaggeration of the seriousness of the situation. That is not the official way. Indeed, I happen to know that there has recently been a strong disposition in Whitehall to censor certain important items of news—as, for example, the remarkable warning as to the intentions of our defeated enemies which Marshal Foch, a week ago, deemed it his duty to address to the Supreme Council in Paris. Fortunately, however, the safeguards of publicity have not been entirely destroyed, and it needs only the exercise of common sense, aided by the warnings of daily events, to realise that the whole fabric of the Peace Treaty is in imminent danger, and that unless the situation is firmly and decisively handled untold disaster may be upon us before many weeks are past.

Germany's Sham Repentance.

I daresay this sort of plain speaking will be very shocking to the tame "ostriches" of Fleet Street, who like to keep their head buried in the sand until the shock of events assails their exposed hindquarters; but I care nothing for them or their masters—my duty is plain. I am determined that not only the facts but the inexorable logic of the situation shall be relentlessly enforced. The cardinal fact is that in "defeated" Germany "crushed beyond hope of recovery," as we were triumphantly assured the deposed idol of militarism has been lifted again on to its pedestal—the leaders of the war, Hindenburg, Ludendorff, Mackensen, and the rest are again the gods of the market-place; the whole country, from the Rhine to the Polish frontier, resounds once more to Hymns of Hate. The short-lived mood of sham repentance that served to delude our "softies" and to some extent to abate the severities of the Peace Treaty is already at an end, and the thoughts of the German masses are dwelling upon the red prospect of revenge. There is no mistaking the signs and symptoms. Within the past few weeks Berlin has indulged in a perfect orgy of military hero-worship, the principal object of frenzied adulation being General von Hindenburg the man of "blood and iron" who is to-day the darling of the Hun populace, because they fondly and foolishly imagine that if he had been retained in supreme command of the German armies he would not so soon have capitulated to the Allies. The meaning of it all is tragically clear. These militarist idols, hoping against hope to recover their power and prestige, have managed to conceal from the German masses the extent to which they were out-manœuvred, out-generalled and out-fought—with the result that already there is a clamant call for the return of the exiled Hohenzollerns, and a renewed consecration to the devilish religion of the sword. This altered mood in the nation at large is accompanied on the part of their improvised rulers who are rapidly losing whatever degree of public confidence they ever possessed—by a studied evasion of the terms of the Peace Treaty, their attitude being characterised by a wanton insolence which I do not hesitate to say ought before now to have entailed military chastisement. In the House of Lords the other day Lord Birkenhead, who is not usually classed as a "scaremonger," told us that Germany was seriously "in default" on at least six of her most fundamental undertakings in relation to the Peace Treaty; just as in several important particulars she treated the Armistice conditions with arrogant contempt, so she now seeks to make of the Treaty of Versailles a worthless "scrap of paper." Let no man or woman minimise the seriousness of the situation. It is no mere question of technicalities, of diplomatic niceties, of the usages of civilised nations. *Germany is arming.* This is the cold and sober truth, nay—the hot and scalding infamy recognised by the lynx-eyed Generalissimo of the Allies and impressed by him upon the Supreme Council at Paris. When I said on this page a week or two ago that the Huns were busily mustering trained troops in the guise of "special police" levies, I was accused in some quarters of "raising a scare," of giving expression to baseless fears. Even Mr. Bonar Law thought the figure of "over 500,000" German troops was an "exaggeration," and in any case, he declared, the matter "was one for Marshal Foch." Well, Foch has spoken, and in accents—not of "scaremongering," of course—but of stern warning. So far from regarding half-a-million as an "exaggerated" estimate of German military strength five months from the signing of the Peace Treaty, the gallant Marshal, we are told, has produced to the Supreme Council facts and figures showing that Germany to-day has at her command as many as 1,200,000 armed men. Two-thirds of this vast force has been raised in flat defiance of the Peace Treaty. All this, taken in conjunction with the open revival of Prussian militarism and the undisguised reaction in favour of the deposed Hohenzollerns, proves conclusively, to my mind, that the Huns have not forsaken their bloody ideals—that, temporarily frustrated in their felon scheme of world-conquest, they are burning with the evil desire for revenge—plotting, planning, and waiting for a caitiff blow.

Politicians' Fatal Mistake.

Let us look a little deeper into the causes of this state of affairs. The Allied triumph of a year ago was indeed "a crowning mercy," but, as I pointed out at the time, it had one palpable defect. *For Germany there was no Sedan.* As strategists count success and failure, the defeat of the German Armies was abject and complete; but there was no spectacular collapse. Germany was not compelled to descend the valley of humiliation that the world might witness her overwhelming downfall. At the crucial moment, when a few more vigorous thrusts would have sent her vast war-machine crashing to destruction, the soldiers were called off, to allow the politicians to take a hand—at what a cost we are already beginning to learn. By no section of the Allied peoples was the disappointment at this decision more keenly felt than by the men of our own glorious Army, who knew that at last they had the enemy "on the run" and were thirsting to press their victory home. But it was not to be. Weaker counsels prevailed. As I have recently shown, the United States Government, last in the war, yet more eager to treat than to fight, had acquired a preponderating influence in the Allied councils, and to the deep regret of Marshal Foch, who never concealed his mistrust of the whole proceedings, it was decided to accept the enemy's surrender on terms. Having all along been in the closest touch with our own officers and men, I can speak from personal knowledge of the wave of chagrin and consternation that swept through all ranks of the Army when it became known that the politicians at home, as they believed, had "interfered with Foch," and thereby prevented the Allied Armies from "finishing the job." It was the same in France and amongst her gallant *poilus*. A few more days would have seen the great Prussian bully measure his length in the dust, his armies routed and scattered, his whole line in headlong retreat. The shame and bitterness of defeat would have entered deep into every German heart—from the Rhine to the Eastern marshes of Prussia, the cup of humiliation would have been drained to the dregs. We might easily and at no great sacrifice have crossed the

...Y TO BERLIN!

...nge to Europe—Foch's Stern Warning.

...E EDITOR.

German frontier and dictated peace in Berlin, instead of spending weary months haggling round a table in Versailles. Any evasion or trickery could then have been dealt with instantly and on the spot; instead of which, we are now informed that in circumstances of no small difficulty the Allies propose to occupy Essen and Frankfürt unless, forsooth, Germany—a hundred times already perjured and forsworn—agrees to add one more signed promise to the mass of dishonoured paper that is the monument of our folly and shame.

Enemy's Grandiose Plan.

And beyond Germany rises the sinister, menacing shadow of anarchist Russia. Make no mistake, it is the settled policy of the German military party, now basking once again in the sunshine of popular favour, to cultivate friendly relations with the tyrants of Moscow, themselves consumed with the lust of world dominion—to conclude an offensive and defensive alliance with the Bolshevist usurpers, on the principle "Great Russia for the Bolshevists and the Bolshevists for us." Our pacifists are fond of telling us that Germany has seen her mistake. It is true she has, although not in the sense they intend. It is true that she now recognises the grave strategic blunders that prevented the consummation of her evil desires, and it may be assumed that in any future war—the possibility cannot be ruled out—she will content herself with a resolute defensive in the West, while endeavouring in conjunction with Russia to establish herself unassailably athwart Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This grandiose plan of a vast Eurasian Empire, based upon the military might of Germany, is not the sort of growth that can be killed by protocols or smothered beneath the weight of parchment treaties. It lives on in the crafty minds of German merchants and bankers, in the ignorant thoughts of the common people—and in its twin promise of gain and glory, supplies the motive force of the military revival. In my judgment, the average student of foreign politics is far too little concerned with the possibilities, rich and dramatic as they are, that lie hidden in the great heart of Asia. America, on account of her closer proximity, realises them more vividly than we do, and that is one reason why she rejects the cheap flummery of the League of Nations. We have to think not only of Germany and Russia, but of China's teeming millions already exposed to the infection of Bolshevist intrigue; of our relations with Japan; of our position in India; of the Turks, with whom, technically, we are still at war; of Mesopotamia and Syria—remembering that Russia is the warden of Asia, and that from Berlin to Petrograd is a swift and easy channel for evil communications. Think it out.

Not Words, but Action.

And, remember, that for the harsh, arrogant, anti-pentent attitude of the German mind Allied policy is chiefly responsible. There was a Bishop in the Middle Ages who was wont "to prove his doctrine orthodox by apostolic blows and knocks," and there is no other way with the Huns. Faithful to the bully's simple code, they mistake gentleness for weakness, and ascribe "unwillingness to wound" to the lack of the "power to strike." The latest move on the part of the Entente Powers is to dispatch an ultimatum—such phrases read strangely in the sixth month after the formal Declaration of Peace—to the German Government demanding from them, on pain of military action, still another wireless undertaking that the terms of the Treaty of Versailles shall be immediately carried out. I am bound to say, guided by the latest available information, that this strikes me as an aimless and dilatory proceeding, little calculated to restore the Huns to their senses. What is needed at this time of day, and after Germany has shamelessly dishonoured her sworn obligations, is *not words, but action*. I derive a good deal more encouragement from a telegram in the *Matin* stating that the French garrisons in Hesse and the Rhenish Palatinate have been strengthened, and that troops have been moved to Mayence and Ludwigshafen to reinforce the Armies of Occupation. This looks more like business: it is, in fact, the sort of "talk," and the only sort, that the Germans understand. Personally, I am strongly disposed to think, in this matter, "the longest way round" may be "the shortest way home," and I incline to the belief that the nearest cut to permanent peace—even at this late hour—would be for a composite Allied Force to march on Berlin. The Entente Powers would then have the situation in their own hands, and be in a position to deal with any eventualities. In plain terms, the time has come when, if necessary, the very moderate conditions of the Versailles Treaty must be enforced not merely by "strongly-worded notes" and "ultimatums," but at the point of the bayonet. The trouble with Germany, speaking of the nation as a whole, is that the extent of her military overthrow has never dawned upon her purblind intelligence; the episode of the Armistice and the surrender of her armies has been tricked out by the military apologists with all manner of lies and deceit until, at last, the stay-at-home Hun begins to wonder whether, after all, Germany did not emerge rather creditably from her effort at conquest, and whether it is not a needless concession to the "peace party" to comply with the Treaty of Versailles. This filmy web of illusion must be rudely dispelled if Europe is to taste the real benefits of peace. It is for the Allied Governments—with or without the concurrence of the United States—to say, and mean it, that the Peace Treaty shall be observed to the last comma; that any further trickery or evasion, or the dishonouring of the smallest of its provisions, shall entail exemplary punishment, to be inflicted forthwith by the Allied Armies under the direction of Marshal Foch. Moreover, I suggest that if such action be determined upon, its extent should be left to the decision of the Generalissimo who, with a full knowledge of the circumstances, and of Germany's secret dispositions, is in the best position to estimate the requirements of the situation. I doubt if the distinguished Marshal of France—for disregarding whose advice we have already paid dearly—will be disposed to make two bites at the cherry. It may, I think, be taken for granted that he has already laid his plans for the decisive occupation of Berlin.

Give Foch the Word to Act.

The British Government has a special duty in the matter. When Mr. Lloyd George chose President Wilson for his guide, rather than M. Clemenceau, he accepted a grim responsibility that cannot be lightly set aside. We must assume, moreover, that from the British standpoint the contingencies that have now arisen were all along kept in view, and that plans were matured for coping with any sudden emergency. I decline to believe that the Prime Minister is in the hands of those light headed fanatics who talk of holding out the hands of friendship and forgiveness and admitting Germany to their precious League of Nations while she shows by every sign that she is unchanged at heart from the callous villainy that plunged the world knee-deep in blood. I am averse, as my readers are aware, from the spectacular trial of the Kaiser in London, which I believe would play into the hands of the Monarchist party in Germany, but I have no thought of pardoning the abominable excesses of the German militarists, and I would have the terms of the Peace Treaty enforced, as I believe they can only be enforced, under the stress of direct military compulsion. As it is, the Huns are laughing at us in their arrogant pride, insolently telling us that it was our fault their Fleet was scuttled at Scapa Flow, while in regard to the general terms of the Treaty we are told in effect that Germany will comply with them as and when she chooses. This continued affront to the pride of the Allied Powers is past all bearing; moreover, it is lurid with the promise of future disaster. For our honour and safety's sake, let us have done with this monstrous fooling. It is not a case for notes and protocols and ultimatums, for the stilted intercourse of diplomacy. There is no room for negotiations. The whole future of civilisation still hangs in the balance. *Give Foch the word to act!* In other words, dismiss America altogether from the picture; treat her as non-existent so far as the final settlement of the war is concerned. Let Britain and France take the matter into their own hands, and if necessary do now what should have been done on the 11th of November, 1918: wipe Germany, as we knew her before the war, off the map of Europe!

THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

In giving publicity on this page to the views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters bearing name and address for publication.

All envelopes and letters must be marked "P.P." in left-hand corner.

Letters for this page must relate to public, as distinguished from personal, topics.

For short acknowledgments of communications and replies to other letters—selected from our general mail—see "Letter Bag" pages 26 and 27.

To Paralyse Pussyfoot.

Abolish licences. Let everybody do in reason what he wants to. Have no hours restrictions whatever. Supply meals and music. Lighten the drinks. Have the Continental system of boulevard and beer-garden refreshments. These measures will render "Pussyfoot's" campaign abortive.—WILLIAM QUINN, Crocketon Street, Glasgow.

Prince of Wales's Fund.

The Government should pass a measure making it compulsory for such funds as the "Prince of Wales's Fund" and others of a like nature to issue a periodical balance sheet, showing how the money is being distributed, so that the country can know who is deriving the benefit from the millions collected. No one seems to know where the large amount subscribed to the Prince of Wales's Fund is going, and yet we are repeatedly hearing of cases of distress; and all hospitals are in financial straits.—J. FOSTER, Sycamore Place, Bootham, York.

"Leisure-time Jobs."

A clause should be inserted in the 48-Hour Week Bill, forbidding those workers concerned from using their leisure time to the detriment of their less fortunate brothers, who up to the present are excluded from the measure. Take the case of jobbing gardeners who, on returning to civilian life, find their former jobs have been taken by 48-hours-a-week men, who, getting a good wage at their own trade, can afford to undercut the price and thus deprive others of their legitimate livelihood.—HERBERT GOODCHILD, Cazenove Road, Stoke Newington.

COALition Extraordinary.

Our wonderful Government clapped 6s. per ton on coal and Rabbie gasted the poor consumer. Having discovered that they had "done their sum wrong," they knocked off 10s. and prostrate the merchant who squeals, "I'm ruined. I've huge stocks of this rationed commodity: what shall I do?" Then the Government, always solicitous for the well-to-do, says, "We will compensate you, good merchant." Now, this fellow started on the 6s. rise on the stocks he then held. On the fall he is to be compensated out of your pockets and mine. In Geddes' name, *Why?*—THOMAS MACDOUGALL, Iona Street, Leith.

Gloves for Artificial Hands.

Armless ex-Service men experience great difficulty in procuring single gloves for their artificial hands—which wear out, on an average, one glove monthly; having to buy a pair to replace one worn glove is a great hardship. Could not the ex-Service men's organisations purchase from time to time, direct from the factories, all odd gloves that can be obtained, and distribute them to the local branches in proportion to the number of armless men belonging to each? If the odd gloves available proved insufficient, pairs could be purchased and a single glove supplied.—V. G. SMITH (Kilburn Lane, W.)

Working Men Want Them!

Of all the letters published condemning Premium Bonds which I have seen, not one has been written by a working man. Most rich people have won their wealth by some sort of business speculation which is just a form of gambling. The advantage of Premium Bonds is that everybody has an equal chance, whereas in most business deals one tries to get the better of the other, and the more crafty succeeds. If Capital and Labour are to work together for the good of the State, working men must share some of the privileges now enjoyed by the rich. If a vote was taken throughout the country, there would be a very large majority in favour of Premium Bonds.—WILLIAM GRAY, Stephenson Street, Dunston-on-Tyne.

Army Courts-Martial.

The Committee of Investigation have made several good recommendations without getting at the real root of the evil—the composition of the Courts. These should be modelled on the same lines as the Civil Courts; with a President (a civil lawyer with seven years' practice), Counsel for the prosecution and for the defence (lawyers with preferably two years' active service, and holding commissions), and a jury of two officers, two N.C.O.s, and two privates, all with at least three years' service. There should be an Appeal Court, with a jury of three officers, three warrant officers, three N.C.O.s and three privates. No man under the age of twenty-five should be allowed to sit.—F. M. BRICE, junr. (Conington Road, S.E.)

Five Guineas is paid to the writer of the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mr. F. Margetts.

Fleecing the Sub-Tenant.

I have just been asked the exact rent of a whole house for two unfurnished rooms. Could not the Rent Restriction Act be extended to sub-tenants—or the matter be included in the profiteering courts? Half of poorer London lives in another man's house, and these inflated rents are being extorted everywhere.—A. BUTLER (Glynde Street, E.C.)

Scrap the Trams.

One of the greatest lessons taught by the recent railway strike was the adaptability of motor transport. Municipal authorities should discard and scrap the tramway systems with their costly and cumbrous lines, ugly standards and overhead wires—for the infinitely more convenient motor bus. This would mean less expense to the ratepayers and less obstruction or congestion of traffic, and a far better service.—WILLIAM COUPLETHWAITE, Charnley Road, Blackpool.

Political Education.

It is astonishing how little knowledge most people have of Constitutional politics. Many a clever business man is "a child in these matters." Therefore should not some form of Political Education be included in the curriculum of senior scholars? Bills before the House should be explained to them, their progress watched, and later the operation of the Acts be noted. The ultimate result would be a livelier, more general, and more earnest interest in both Parliamentary and Municipal Elections, in place of the present apathy.—MILTON ENGLISH, "Highbank," Southsea.

"Protection."

Before the war, the manufacturers of this country complained bitterly of unfair foreign competition and at every election they preached the gospel of "Protection." Then came the war, and with it their chance to prove "Protection" as it was preached. What did they do? They formed "Rings" and "Combines" and said, "This is our chance. No competition! We can charge what we like." Now the war is ended they dread "dumping"; for they know that one shipload of foreign goods will hit them harder than a thousand Profiteering Committees.—F. MARGETTS, Norwood Road, S.E.

To Keep Fit.

Our men who have recently been "demobbed" and have gone back to sedentary occupations after Army and Navy life, miss their physical drill. Why not a gymnasium in every town, the Government to stand expense? The gymnasium could be run by Old Army instructors. It would at least keep our men fit for all future occasions.—(Miss) O. FRY, Tavistock Hotel, Covent Garden, W.C.

London's China-Town.

Having recently returned home from the East, I noticed with alarm the increased hordes of Chinamen living in the East End of London. They do nothing towards production, their only pastime—or business—being to run gambling and opium dens. The Government should deport these undesirable aliens—thereby ridding London, at least, of thousands of useless people. This action would not only tend to lessen the house shortage—it would minimise the "yellow peril" at home.—S. TYSON, Tetley Street, Poplar.

Government Accountancy.

In face of the deplorable ineptitude displayed by the responsible Government Department in fixing coal prices, would it not be to the country's gain if this part of its functions were entrusted to more competent hands? A Board of Chartered Accountants might be advantageously employed to deal with such matters and give expert advice on the financial side of questions relating to Government Control. When such palpable official blundering occurs in connection with coal we are justified in being suspicious in other directions, including the high prices of Controlled Food.—A. A. TOWNS, St. Matthew's Street, Ipswich.

Local Politics.

Many business men are unwilling to retire, because of the fear of "rusting," although they have amassed sufficient money. Suppose, in order "to give us youngsters a chance," they took up local politics—we should then have a far better class of Councillors and Committeemen than we have at present, and "progress with economy" might become more than a catch phrase.—HUBERT LEWIS, Alexandra Road, South Woodford.

Coal and Transport.

The miner is usually blamed for the shortage of coal, not always justly. I am a miner, and have had several "stop-days" recently through shortage of wagons. At the same time there are several collieries in the neighbourhood with more wagons than they can fill. Why don't the responsible officials pool the wagons, and thereby increase the output?—S. BOWSER, Walters Road, Ogmore Vale.

Linguistic Waiters.

It is mostly for the convenience of hotel visitors that alien waiters are engaged. They can usually speak at least three languages, while an English waiter seldom speaks any language but his own. I have worked in an hotel coffee-room during the war, and when foreign visitors arrived I had to hand them over to an alien waiter, as I could not understand them. Why is it that foreign languages are not more—and better—taught in English schools?—MRS. POLTI, Westbourne Street, Hove.

The Mothers' Dilemma.

What's the use of sending little children home from school because of their pinched pale faces, to be told by the doctor they are "anæmic and must have more milk, eggs and puddings"—when their mothers haven't got, and can't get, the food to give them? Milk's a shilling a quart, eggs fivepence-ha'penny each, and sugar does not share out for puddings. The little ones must be content by looking at the elaborate display of chocolate in the shop windows at 5s. a pound, far beyond our reach.—(Mrs.) L. ROSTRON, Fothergill Street, Warrington.

Parliamentary Debates Reports.

Now that the franchise is so widely extended, and such vast consequences depend upon the intelligent and proper use of it, the electorate should have better facilities for studying the qualities of the men and measures for whom and which they exercise it. These can best be afforded by the daily issue—in cheaper and more popular form, than the official Hansard—of full, independent, and authentic reports. At present, most of the Press reports are more confusing than conclusive. The person who "never bothers about politics" should never have a vote.—W. BETTS, Burlington Gardens, Chiswick.

Pernicious "Pictures."

Does our Censor of Films censor only British films? If so, assuredly foreign ones should also be passed by him before exhibition in the United Kingdom. "Pictures" on the screen have a powerful psychological effect on our youth to-day. We do not want British boys to adopt the methods of the New York police, or to get the idea that the lynching of a criminal in the public streets is a meritorious act; still less that the torturing of a spy is the express concern and congenial task of senior officers in uniform. Yet all these things were shown by American films which I, with many English boys and girls, witnessed in London cinemas during the past week.—E. M. CHAPPELL, Upper Gloucester Place, N.W.

School of Invention.

What is needed in this country is a State School of Invention. If we are to compete successfully with the best brains of other countries, the young inventor must be encouraged. Many potential inventions are lost to the world through the originator not having the funds to carry his ideas to maturity. Also inventive genius would be facilitated by the personal knowledge of a master of his particular branch—electricity, motor traction, mechanics, chemistry, etc. Why not install an Industrial Board on the lines of a University! An examining committee could weed out the cranks, and, with the expert advice of a master, the students could be allowed to develop their own ideas.—W. SNOWDEN, Ewart Road, Nottingham.

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Toes and fingers tingle at the first cold-snap. But **POND'S** will prevent the **CHILBLAINS** coming or drive them away if they are already plaguing you. A bottle of POND'S EXTRACT is the greatest safeguard in all cases of **Cuts, Burns, Bruises, Scalds, Catarrh, Soreness, Stiffness, Wounds, Piles, Varicose Veins, Rheumatism, Bedsores, Sore Gums, Eczema,** and **Bleeding** (internal or external). **Pond's Extract** is antiseptic—a splendid "First Aid" equally for the Nursery as in the Home.

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The Old Family Doctor

Pond's Extract

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheese-paring, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

Tommy's Money:—At last the War Council has come to a decision regarding the disposal of regimental funds of units which have been disbanded and demobilised. The money is to be disposed of "according to the expressed desire of the unit concerned," but how can men who are now over the hills and far away express a desire as a concrete unit? The Army Council should have wakened up and come to this decision immediately after the Armistice.

"Flighty" Management:—The Royal Air Force is open again for recruits who are skilled mechanics. Perhaps if some bright official looked around he would find that this step is unnecessary, as there are skilled men and to spare in the force. For instance, a number of Londoners, whose camps have been closed down, are now acting as orderlies in the hospital at Old Sarum, Salisbury. This does not strike us as pukka management.

Not the English Way:—When one of our hospital ships was about to leave Boulogne the other day, an apple woman fell into the dock and would have been drowned but for a staff-sergeant, who jumped overboard and rescued her. When the gallant fellow returned to the vessel, an officer abused him and threatened to place him under arrest for leaving the ship without orders! England's good name was not made by gentlemen like this officer.

The Army Petticoat:—We understood that only a limited number of "indispensable" women were to be kept on Army work, and that ex-soldiers should be retained wherever possible. But at Grove Park and elsewhere we find that men are being dismissed at short notice, while females are still there.

"JACK."

Trouble Afloat:—There is an oil tank called the *Celeol* plying between England and the Baltic. She seems to be a hybrid between the mercantile marine and the Navy, her parent ship being the *Eagle*, at Liverpool. Will the owner or, failing him, the responsible Admiralty official—hold an inquiry into things in general on the vessel? If we based a story on our information we should tear Cutcliffe Hyne's "Captain Kettle" into "babby rags."

"Our" Store Ship:—Several times recently we appealed to Whitehall on behalf of the crews of destroyers and small craft in the Baltic, who were very sadly in need of a visiting store-ship to provide them with the necessaries of life, if not creature comforts. We are glad to assure our bluejacket friends that a ship is now being fitted out. We are naturally very pleased with this result of our agitation, and assure Jack that, singlehanded or in conjunction with the Welfare Committee, we shall always be delighted to be of service to him.

White Sea Leave:—The Admiralty announces that seven days' extra leave is to be granted to crews of all ships returned or returning to England from the White Sea. We trust the commanding officers will give early effect to this Order, and not treat Jack in the shabby way soldiers returned from Russia have experienced. The latter are still whistling for their extra leave, and some of them for their extra pay.

Salvage Money:—Salvage awards are now ready in respect of the following steamers—*Glasgow*, *Sagama River*, *Pembroke Coast* and *Wieringen*. Demobilised salvers should make their whereabouts known.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of Discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or other information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

Breeding Bolshevism:—A Royal Garrison Artilleryman obtains his discharge after 1 year and 136 days' service, "physically unfit for further service, and with a 50 per cent. pension." Being a widower with three little children, he looks around for a job within his capacity. But the reference on his discharge certificate to his physical unfitness seems to kill his chance. He is refused a night watchman's job on account of his "inexperience"—after four years of military service!

His Trials:—A large and well-known caterer declines him when he offers himself as a porter for the Engineering Exhibition, at Olympia, fearing he may "strain" himself. A Shepherd's Bush tradesman, requiring "a respectable man with good character as watchman," rejects him on the grounds that his 50 per cent. pension is not high enough, preferring a man with one leg or one arm, drawing a maximum pension, which could be made up to a living wage.

The Usual Muddle:—Motor cyclists were advertised for the other day, and applicants from Scotland and several parts of England were enlisted and sent into Sussex, being provided with free travelling warrants and a small ration allowance. On arriving at Maresfield Park, over 150 of the men were sent back as they were not wanted. And now they must wait for demobilisation. What a hash we do make of it sometimes. Poor Badgers and poor taxpayers, bent down under the financial woe caused by the uniformed and mufti asses who are entrusted with the job of running the national shop! We cannot, for the moment, place the responsibility for this "regrettable incident," but shall do so later.

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

[The object of our Fund is to relieve (a) the dependents of our Soldiers and Sailors; and (b) suffering amongst the people generally. No genuine appeal is ever refused, and although we see to it that adequate proof is presented in every case relieved, no harassing or degrading questions are put to applicants. Will you please help? We gladly defray all expenses of administration.

Growing Demands:—As we expected, the stoppage of the Out-of-Work dole has very materially added to the applications for help sent to us, with the result that the contents of our coffers are rapidly dwindling, and we are considering the necessity for sending out an S.O.S. message. We are buoyed up with the recollection of past help, however, and feel that our friends will not desert us when the time for further effort has arrived.

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Left Alone: A widow's only son was killed in the war. She has no pension, and is entirely dependent upon the charity of friends.

His Sad Burden: The wife of a discharged soldier lay dead. He is left with four young children—one of them a baby of six months. The poor fellow had nothing towards funeral expenses.

Of the Same Class: A man, discharged from the Service with consumption, is unable to work. His father died, and he had not the funds to bury him.

Overwhelmed: A man who lost two children while he was serving has now been bereaved of his wife, and is left with four children under 12. In addition, he was heavily in debt.

Workless and Ill:—A poor fellow who has been unemployed for several months, is now down with double pneumonia. His wife is also delicate, and there are three young children to keep.

Births and Deaths:—Whatever may be said about the nation's total, the birth-rate among the poor appears to be increasing, and we receive more and more applications for money and clothing. Unfortunately the death-rate, too, is rising somewhat, and we have many calls for help.

MARTYRED GIRLHOOD.

This simple human appeal comes from a very respectable girl, 20 years of age—who for 18 years of living martyrdom, since as a baby she underwent a severe operation has suffered from malformation of the throat, impairing her powers of speech, although not otherwise affecting her capacity for employment. The poor creature's pitiable plight is easily imagined. As a result of the throat trouble, she has to wear a "breathing tube" a somewhat unsightly necessity which, together with other physical peculiarities, makes her totally unacceptable to an employer. Consequently, she finds herself entirely without means; wholly dependent upon her widowed mother and grown-up sisters, the total income for the support of six adults amounting, after the payment of rent, to £1 12s. a week. Our representative has visited the home at Camberwell, where he found ample evidence of appalling poverty, but none whatever of waste or misconduct. The poor girl, pitiably conscious of her physical shortcomings, is almost heart-broken by repeated disappointments, tortured by anxiety as to the future, and a prey to blank despair as she reflects upon the hopelessness of her situation. Cut off as she is to a great extent from the society of her fellow-creatures, what she feels most keenly is the want of human sympathy—her silent craving is for the touch of a friendly hand. In a few weeks she is to go into hospital for another operation, which may—or may not—improve her condition; if she is to survive the ordeal, she must have special nourishment to rally her physical strength, and a new outfit of clothing to preserve her self-respect, and ensure the needful comfort of mind. A touch of human kindness may be as potent as the surgeon's skill. This is the type of case which we aid through our "Greatest of These" Fund. Of course, we have helped the poor girl.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

F. H. (Tonbridge), £10; "A Grass Widow" (Sevenoak 10s.; G. P. E. (Ilford), 3s. 6d.; J. H. T., 2s.; "A Fe Readers of JOHN BULL on the *Delhi*, 15s.; Mrs. S. (Bas stoke), 5s.; F. S. and J. P., 2s.; R. T. (Dover), 5s.; Mrs. C 2s.; "Brynna," 1s.; M. J. D. (Tenby), 2s. 6d.; "Bell 2s.; S. and A. (Accrington), 5s.; "A Scot," 9s.; A. H (Kirkham), 1s.; W. H. R. (Normanton), 1s.; R. G. V (Enfield), 2s.; A. G. K., 10s.; "Bunnie," £1; J. McC. (Bel 1s.; H. W., 1s.; "Charley," 9d.; E. W. (Retford), 7s.; G (Derby), 2s. 6d.; J. H. (Ripon), 1s. 11d.; "My Ole Chum 10s.; M. N., 10s.; "Christmas Gobbler," 2s. 6d.; C. P (Glasgow), 2s. 6d.; "B.," 1s.; "Black Watch," 10s. E. M. W., £1; G. F. (East Sutton), 1s.; "In Memor Plimsoll," 10s.; H. H., 2s. 4d.; J. C. (Church Gresley), H. O. (Punjab), 1 rupee; D. G. (Bathgate), 3s. 5d.; H (Meanwood), 17s. 2d.; W. D. (Hornsey), 4d.; "A Well Wish (Wembley Hill), 2s. 6d.; Anon. (Bewdley), 1s.; H. (Tonbridge), 1s.; G. G. (Leamington), 1s.; T. A. B. 2s. J. W. Mel., 1s.; C. W. (Penzance), 5s.; Anon., 1s.; "Wa and Pray," 3s. 6d.; H. J. H. (Walthamstow), 1s.; J. J. McW (Antrim), 1s.; M. S. (Glasgow), 2s. 6d.; I. R. (Portheawl), 1 Members of Anti-Swearing League, H.M.S. *Ramillies*, F. J. B. (Rugby), 4s.; M. H. (Staffs), 2s. 6d.; "As Would," 5s.; "S. Ealing Reader," 2s.; W. C. (Hanbury), 5s. T. W. (Kendal), 10s.; A. S. (Glasgow), 2s. 6d.; "An A Swank and Bluff," 10s.; L. H. S. (Chatham), 7s.; Readers" (Gobler's Green), 2s. 6d.; J. W. (Oldham), H. B. (Bermondsey), 5s.; E. S. (Chilston), 1s.; D. B. (Stan town), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. E. P. (Chelmsford), 1s.; R. D.,

"A WOOLWICH MARTYR."—Additional sums received for benefit of Mrs. Bells are: "A Roman Catholic," £10; J. M Mrs. H. E. H., £2 each; A. T., £1; "Bunnie," "My O China," A. G. K., "Appreciation," 10s. each; J. T. H., 7s. 6d H. W. H., 6s.; T. H. and E. R., 5s. each; "Welsh Miner and S. W. M., 2s. 6d. each; Mrs. R. B., "Molly," "Poo Norwich Mother," and H. A. H., 2s. each; A. W., 1s. 6d. E. H. and A. G. S., 1s. each.

"A SCOUNDREL UNMASKED."—J. McN. has kindly sent £4 for the benefit of the girl-mother of Wallsend.

"A TRAGEDY OF INGRATITUDE."—Additional sums received for the benefit of Mrs. Collins and her family are: J. McN., £2. "Bunnie," 10s.

"DUMB AND PARALYSED."—Up to the time of going to press our appeal for William Holland has elicited the following response from readers, to whom we tender our sincere thanks: Mrs. A., £2; G. N., "Navy Officer," and G. T. G., £1 each; K. S. G., 10s.; P. T., 5s.; Mrs. P., 4s.; "Old Soldier," and S. C. A., 2s. 6d. each; "Soldier's Wife" and A. S., 2s. each.

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(Pure Wool) Delightfully comfortable socks, giving excellent wear, **HAND KNITTED.** Fancy colours and tops. Lightweight, medium and heavy. The heavy are splendid for Shooting or Fishing. Worth 7/6 a pair. Post free. Price, pair **3/4½**

3 pairs 9/6 12 pairs 37/-

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The great "John Bull" Window-Dressing Competition closes at the end of this month. There are some big prizes to be won. All Traders in the United Kingdom stand an equal chance. It costs nothing to enter, and the conditions are simple. *Why not enter YOUR window? You may receive a handsome cheque* when the results are announced.

These are the conditions:—

1. Select any article advertised in "John Bull" between now and December 31st, 1919, and display it in your window for one week.
2. Send a photograph of the display (with your name and address written on the back) to "John Bull" Window-Dressing Competition, 90, Long Acre, London, W.C.2

Time is getting short. Post the Coupon NOW!

Next week you will probably be too busy to attend to the matter. Write *at once* for the Free Brochure, which contains full particulars of the competition and some useful hints on the Art of Window-Dressing.

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To the Manager, The "John Bull" Window-Dressing Competition (Dept. J.B. 9), 90, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.

Please send me full particulars of the "John Bull" Window-Dressing Competition. I am a bona-fide trader and attach my bill-head, card or business note-paper.

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The EVENING TELEGRAM—the only Sunday evening paper.

JOHN BULL AT PLAY.

RACING, FOOTBALL, BOXING AND OTHER SPORTING NOTES.

RACING.

The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association has taken far too much credit upon themselves. We would remind Lord D'Abernon that his association may have joined in the gallop, but was not altogether responsible for leading the Jockey Club to the gate and "making the pace" for them. Many of the new Turf reforms that have been put forward as their original ideas were suggested in other quarters long 'ere the Breeders' Association had its being.

All the sporting papers—and JOHN BULL is of the category have ever been willing to assist the Jockey Club by advice in all matters where the welfare of the Turf is concerned. The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association contribute nothing more tangible than advice, and that advice is not always particularly sound. There is far too much of the "axe to grind" policy about many of the "Breeders'" proposals.

It will be very interesting to see what the Racecourse Association think about all these Jockey Club reform stunts. We understand that the association holds its meeting this week. It has at its head a "live wire" practical man of vast experience. What will he have to say?

If racecourses are to be run on non-profit-making lines, what is to become of the shareholder of many of the minor meetings with capital already invested?

The Lingfield Park meeting has never in its history paid more than 5 per cent.

The whole question of Turf reform is one that can easily be overdone, and the pruning-knife, if used too freely, will be to the detriment rather than the improvement of racing sport. We of the racing world owe much to the little meeting and the little owner. Do away with one, and make racing too expensive for the other (by insisting on the £5 sweepstakes), and in the long run racing will suffer irretrievably.

Racing Executives should take warning that, big as have been the attendances to date under N. H. Rules, the race-going public will soon tire of seeing walk-overs and matches in Selling Steeplechases. There are only two things for it: either the selling price of the animals must be raised, or this class of event done away with altogether.

True, Steeplechasing may not as yet have got into its proper swing, though when it does there is always the chance of frost intervening and upsetting trainers' plans. If we get the long cold snap that the meteorological experts predict, owners will then be regretting they did not pick up those small crumbs in the shape of stakes that have been going begging the last fortnight.

Darthogue is reputed to be a smashing 'chaser. We notice he is in the £1,000 'Chase, at Manchester, next month.

Peasant is the latest recruit to Steeplechasing.

Lady Wilton's 'chasers will be catching the judge's eye shortly. They all ran very creditably at the last Newbury meeting.

SCULLING.

It is still difficult to convince some people that Felton's victory over Barry in the Sculling championship was in any way conclusive of his superiority. In this connection, we have received a letter from a Shropshire reader, who insists that—instead of going to Australia for another race—Barry should have a second chance on the Thames, with Felton, on this occasion, taking the Surrey side—and the "rubber," if necessary, then "being decided on a smooth piece of water, say, the Severn or Dee." There may be something in our correspondent's contention that the event is too important to have been practically decided by the spin of a coin.

GOLF.

Abe Mitchell "put it across" James Braid to such purpose that good judges are marking him out as the champion of next year. The modest and unassuming Sonning professional is undoubtedly a very great player—he appears to get greater with every match—and it is nice to know that he has not yet had "to get his hat on with a shoe-horn." We hope he never will.

WEEK'S RACING SELECTIONS.

WINDSOR—WEDNESDAY.
Oakside Hurdle—LONGERLINE; if absent, ARBORFIELD.
Windsor Handicap 'Chase—WAVYLACE.
Forest Chase—*THE BORE.

WINDSOR—THURSDAY.
College Steeplechase—*EXPEDITIOUS.
December Hurdle—CHICAGO.
Bovenay Hurdle—FURIOUS.

GATWICK—FRIDAY.
Amateur Riders' 'Chase—MINSTREL PARK.
Timberham Hurdle—ZEPHYROS.
Croydon Hurdle—*AHANESK.
Pegasus 'Chase—THE TENTER.

GATWICK—SATURDAY.
Horsham Hurdle—LONGERLINE or PROMOTER.
Croydon Hurdle—CORYDON or TREZIDELLA.
Novices' 'Chase—SALT SPRAY.
Hoadley Hurdle—IRISH FAIR.

HOCKEY.

S. H. Shoveller, who has aptly been described as the "prince of centre forwards," is still playing wonderful hockey. After his fine display for Surrey against Middlesex, one of his colleagues remarked that it was a positive delight to have the honour of playing with this hockey genius. Judging from what we have seen of the game this season, Shoveller could well be described as the "only centre forward." His is the champagne of hockey.

Result of Football Competition No. 12.

Ten winning teams had to be selected from the sixteen matches played on November 29th. Of these four were drawn, thus leaving twelve in all.

The following four competitors each named ten winning teams, and therefore share the prize of £250:—

E. Baird, 48, Carmel Street, Belfast; H. V. Lewis, 45, Vastern Road, Reading, Berks; Mrs. Maddams, 19, Hanley Road, Hornsey, N.4; Mrs. E. T. Roberts, 8, St. Mary's Ave., Harrogate.

Our new weekly Football Competition is the most popular and simplest of any. Another prize of £250 *must be won* this week. See page iii of cover.

WALKING

Practically the last of the year's fixtures is the Surrey Walking Club's Croydon to Godstone and back (18½ miles) on Boxing Day for the Webb Cup. A great race is expected, and our readers' admiration will go out to the Spartans who must sacrifice many of the usual Christmas joys to keep fit for the event.

FOOTBALL.

On behalf of the football enthusiasts of Chesterfield, we have been asked to lodge an emphatic protest, through JOHN BULL, at the decision of the Football Association Divisional Committee—which ruled the Chesterfield Municipal Club out of the English Cup Competition on the score that they played an ineligible man against South Normanton Colliery.

The fault appears to have rested with the player concerned, who misled the club and did not divulge the fact that he had assisted another team in a preliminary round. Why Chesterfield are so incensed is because in the case of a similar protest, lodged by South Liverpool against Southport, the Committee permitted a replay. It is argued that the cases are on all fours, and we are asked to "address a few words to the committee through your valuable paper." On the facts before us, a monstrous injustice has been done—so maybe the Football Association would like to explain matters, and produce further evidence.

BOXING.

We think that some of the critics might have been more sympathetic with Joe Beckett in his bitter hour of defeat. To make an idol of him one day and ruthlessly to lash him the next, is "not cricket." The Southampton man may have been defective in his tactics, and he certainly needed to be quicker-witted against a man whose speciality is to get going like a lightning-flash from the start; but the blow that put him out was the work of a genius, and probably the most wonderful punch—in its piston like action—its perfect timing and extraordinary power. Beckett, however, was at fault in his unpreparedness for what most of Carpentier's supporters expected him to attempt.

Having regard to the experiences of some of the Olympia fights, we must unreservedly give credit to the police for the admirable arrangements they made to maintain order outside the Holborn Stadium, and the courtesy and promptitude with which they passed along the ticket-holders who, on this occasion, escaped the usual molestation. Inside the hall, also, the arrangements were practically perfect—so it was a case of congratulation all round.

LAWN TENNIS.

Norman Brookes is once more the Captain of the Australian Davis Cup team; and no doubt, as usual, he will also be his own selection committee—as the "Napoleon of Australian lawn tennis" likes to have his way, and implicit confidence is placed in him.

Because Norman Brookes is the Captain, it does not necessarily follow that he will play in the challenge round against the British Isles, as is generally assumed. Non-playing captains frequently supervise Davis Cup teams, and much will depend upon Brookes' form next month. His singles game has lost its stability, but he may decide to appear in the doubles with G. L. Patterson, the present World's Champion. Not that we like the combination of a left-hander and a right-hander in doubles.

BILLIARDS.

The "something new" element about the forthcoming Billiards Championship will compensate, in a large measure, for the absence of Melbourne Inman. It is not a bad thing for the honours to go round, and on all the form of the present season the new champion ought to be Willie Smith, the "Darling of Darlington." Temperamentally, we consider him to be the best equipped of all the competitors. We should have liked to have seen him up against Inman in the Championship tourney—but maybe the pair will yet clash in a level match, in view of the report that Inman is to challenge the winner of the event

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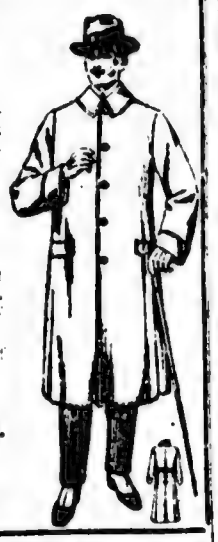

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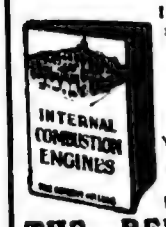

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Easily understood, yet intensely interesting, this course is far removed from the ordinary method [illegible] Mental Powers and Efficiency. [illegible] of successful men, only to [illegible] Science of Applied Psychology, at a [illegible] cost. It is now offered in a [illegible] ket form at a price and on terms which make it possible for all to benefit by it. Send the Enquiry Form for complete particulars to-day to

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—Marine	—Textiles
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—Steam	—Wireless Telegraphy
—Boiler	—Woodworking
—Agriculture	—Furniture
—Poultry Farming	—Fruit Farming
—Civil Engineering	—Careers for Women

NOTE.—If the subject desired is not in the above list, write it here.

Name .....

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REMARKABLE OFFER TO CIGARETTE SMOKERS.

Hand-made Pure Virginia Cigarettes at less than the price of Machine-made "Gaspers."

HAVING taken over the remaining stock of the Toronto Co., we can offer a limited quantity of HAND-MADE guaranteed FINEST VIRGINIA Cigarettes, packed in cartons of 20, at the extraordinary price of **45s. 6d.** per thousand, or 500 for **23s. 6d.**, carriage paid. No less than 500 sold. No reduction to the trade. Money refunded in full if dissatisfied.

LOO-REKA TOBACCO CO., 31, PICCADILLY MANSIONS, W.1.
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FORT-REVIVER
THE FINEST LIQUEUR TONIC

TATCHO
The HAIR GROWER

Mr. Geo. R. Sims' discovery 1/3, 2/9, 4/6

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

FINANCIAL NOTES—AND ADVICE TO INVESTORS.

BY OUR CITY EDITOR.

All correspondence relating to financial matters should be addressed to the City Editor.

Each enquiry must bear name and address and be accompanied by a Postal Order for One Shilling.

Why Markets are so Bad.

When will the Stock Exchange go back to pre-war custom? Before the war, when a jobber made a price he had to deal. To-day, he only deals when he feels inclined. Again, before the war jobbers sold short, thus, when a slump came, they bought back and steadied the market. To-day there is no short selling, consequently markets are rotten.

The Army and Navy Stores Strike.

Nor am I at all surprised that this should have happened. Here is a prosperous undertaking, paying large dividends to its shareholders, but treating its employees very badly. Never has a strike received, and merited, more public sympathy, and I am pleased to find that victory has gone to the staff.

A Timely Move.

I congratulate the Stock Exchange upon its decision to insist that particulars of every new share put on the market shall be advertised, and that directors and brokers shall be responsible for the statements thus advertised. Some of the worst swindles in the City have been marketed, when all the information available was a jobber's "slip," which usually contains preposterous, and unprovable statements. That little game has now been stopped.

Mexican Eagles.

Why should people be disappointed with the Mexican Eagle bonus? Surely, from the point of view of the man who went into the White pool at 5¾, there is nothing to grumble at. Eagles at £11 would be worth £9 10s. *ex* rights. Those who are not satisfied with such a profit must be very greedy people. I know there is another side to the question, namely, the extravagant method of raising money. But as long as the boom in oil lasts, the Company will do well. Although no one has gone into Mexican Eagles as an investment, dividends during the last eight years average less than 10 per cent. on a ten-dollar share.

Another Lever Absorption.

Maypole Dairy, I am assured, is to be taken over by the Levers at a price which would make the Maypole Deferred worth 25s. The announcement should be out in a few days.

Textiles.

The latest boom is in Textiles. The public reads of great financiers dealing in millions—acquiring control of the cotton industry of Lancashire, and wonders where it comes in. It will doubtless know shortly. Meanwhile it is not unsatisfactory to find home financiers embarking large sums in British enterprises. Far better than to see the enterprising American capitalist obtaining control—isn't it?

African and Eastern Trading Corporation

The African and Eastern Trading Corporation, which used to be called the African Association, is going to take over Loders and Nucoline, the seed-crushing firm, giving share for share. Loders pay 20 per cent., and are in a strong position, for their net quick assets are 40-55 per cent. of the balance-sheet total. African and Eastern absorbed Caleys, then they bought up Miller Bros., Swanzy, and various other small firms in the West African trade. There is a boom on in the African Oil trade, mainly due to the fact that the Germans, who used to run the business, are now out of it. Huge profits are being made, and African and Eastern have just declared an interim dividend of 12 per cent. as against 7 per cent. last year. Loders' shareholders are not likely to refuse the offer, as their Ordinary are quoted 47s. 3d., whilst the Corporation shares are quoted 99s.

Marconis.

Marconis New Issue, offered at £3 a share, is a sound proposition. It will give shareholders 25s. a share profit, and will enormously increase the strength of the Company. It is already strong, for the reserves stand at £1,250,000, and will be prodigiously increased by the premium on the new issue. Shares, *ex* rights, at about £4 look a reasonable purchase, as the Board tell us that the dividend can be maintained

Ashanti Gold.

Ashanti Gold Fields report is good, but not very good. The profit is down £7,224, but 3s. a share is paid, and there are five and a half years' ore reserves in sight. The shares give a yield of 12½ per cent., and are certainly worth buying, for the new shares are to be issued at 8s., and are to be allotted on the basis of one for every eight held, so that a holder of a hundred shares gets £10 bonus. Also, it must not be forgotten that the present price of gold will largely increase the profits for the current year.

Home Railway Future.

I suppose one must reconcile oneself in these days to an average 10 per cent. return on ordinary industrial enterprises, or perhaps I should say on the ordinary shares of industrial companies. But I think this hard and fast rule should not apply in the case of Home Railways. Making every allowance for over-capitalisation, or inflation of capital, raised during the piping times of peace, and a future of uncertainty—the public services should receive better consideration at the hands of investors. Notwithstanding the lessons of the recent strike, railways *are* essential, and, as business propositions, are well worth the attention of investors at present prices.

Harper Bean.

I am not surprised to learn that the issue recently made by Harper Bean, Ltd.—the six-million motor combine—was over-subscribed. It possessed many attractive features, not the least, perhaps, being the generous provision for participation by employees in the prosperity of the concern. Were this principle more frequently adopted, I think we should hear less of industrial restlessness.

A Kaffir Tip.

A month back I advised everybody to buy Kaffirs, especially the cheap Kaffirs, and this market has been the strongest on the Stock Exchange for the past week. Even Cinderellas have been taken in hand, and are talked higher. But the pick of the basket is Randfontein Central. There is still a rise here.

Are Courtaulds too High?

Are Courtaulds too high? The Directors are going to give share for share bonus, but even this does not satisfy the Stock Exchange, who wonder why the Viscose shares are not distributed. They need not be nervous. This melon will be cut very quickly, but even when it is cut Courtaulds do not look to me worth more than £9.

Brewery's Huge Profits.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries is one of the soundest of the Provincial Breweries, but is it not going a little too quickly? It gave a share bonus of 100 per cent. in 1911, and now it is going to distribute another 100 per cent. It is so rich that it does not know what to do with its money. So it will give the Preference shareholders another 1 per cent. when the Ordinary get 8 per cent. Profits for year ending September 30th are £89,276, and a 16 per cent. dividend is again paid. I congratulate Mr. Hargreaves.

Our Lost Opportunity.

Having turned down Premium Bonds—the responsibility for which the Government adroitly shifted to the shoulders of the House of Commons, although, as will have been seen, it undoubtedly played a big part in the rejection of the proposal—the Chancellor of the Exchequer cannot be oblivious to the activities of our neighbouring Ally, France. To raise a huge sum, ostensibly for the restoration of devastated areas, the French Premium Loan has been floated, and, what is more, is to be officially recognised by the London Stock Exchange, Treasury permission presumably having been obtained to deal in them in the House. So we shall probably see large sums invested—or speculated—in this attractive issue which might have found their way into our own National Exchequer. We are indeed a funny people!

OUR FINANCIAL LETTER BAG.

EDITORIAL REPLIES.

(All enquiries must be accompanied by a postal order for 1s., and bear the full name and address of correspondent as evidence of good faith.)

A. C. D. (Jermyn).—*Martin's* Preference shares must be regarded as very speculative.—F. W. R. (Warrington).—*Mersey Docks and Harbour Board* securities rank as absolutely first-class. I think the shares of *Tennant Co., Ltd.*, are a perfectly sound investment, and I believe the Company is doing remarkably well.——H. S. (Erdington).—*War Savings Certificates* are best for a small investor, and I think you would probably be wise to make the suggested change. Of course the 5 per cent. War Loan is all right if you prefer to hold.——F. S. (Bishop's Waltham)——*Star of Egypt:* I should not be inclined to throw good money after bad.——H. L. G. (Windsor).—*Mysore Goldfields* are gradually working out, and I do not recommend a purchase. The others have all good prospects except *Roeckas*, which are doubtful. Better hold, however, until things settle down a bit.——SELLING (Barnsbury).—The present price of *Allsopp Ord.* is about 105 per £100 stock. Any stockbroker or your bank will deal for you.——MRS. S. C. (Andover).—*Bath Brewery* has been doing better lately, but you cannot get more than 3 per cent. on your debentures, as they are not entitled to share in the profits.——J. S. (St. Marychurch).—Brewery shares have probably about reached their apex, but do not be in a hurry to sell. *Lyons* Preference are absolutely sound.——H. D. (Rosyth).—I have no records traceable about *Electric Palaces* or *Associated County Halls*. Let me know from whom and where you bought the shares and send any documents you have regarding them.——L. CO. (Homerton).—*Cornwall Slate Quarries* must be regarded as very speculative, but owing to the rise in prices they have a better chance now than they had at the start.——W. J. W. (St. Anstell).—Unless you actually hold the *Hollandaise* bonds in your possession I am afraid you must regard your money as lost.——G. W. (Bradwell).—There is practically no market in the shares of the *Spitzbergen Syndicate*, and no dealings have recently been reported. Ascertain your position from the Secretary and write again.——W. J. H. (Pontypridd).—The present price of *British Tamaulipas Oil* shares is about a 1s. or a little more. The prospects are very doubtful. You may, however, get better terms if you wait long enough.

(A considerable number of replies are held over for lack of space, but every endeavour is being made to answer them promptly by post.)

COMPANY NOTICE.

The following circular has been addressed to shareholders by the directors of

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

Marconi House,
Strand, London, W.C.2.

3rd December, 1919.

Dear Sir (or Madam),—On the 13th ultimo, at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company, a resolution was passed authorising the increase of the Company's capital by £1,800,000. The *Times* report of the proceedings of this meeting was duly forwarded to you.

On the 28th ultimo the Confirmatory Meeting was held, and a copy of the *Times* report of the proceedings of that meeting is enclosed herewith.

At these meetings the Chairman informed you of the important and extensive developments of the Company's business and the necessity for the substantial increase of the Company's capital in order to provide for the commitments already entered into, and to be ready to carry out the offer, if and when called upon to do so, which the Company has made to the Government to construct and organise a thorough and efficient Wireless Telegraph service between all distant parts of the Empire and the Mother Country.

In these circumstances and for the reason which has already been given at the Extraordinary General Meeting on the 13th November, it was regarded as inexpedient to distribute a cash bonus to the shareholders, but a promise was made that this should be compensated for by the issue of the new capital.

The Directors have pleasure in informing you that in fulfilment of this promise they have decided to issue the whole of the increased capital to shareholders only at £3 per share premium. This will entitle every shareholder, whether he holds Preference or Ordinary shares, to secure one new share at the price of £3 for every share he may hold on the 4th December, 1919, when the register will be closed.

Letters of allotment and renunciation will be posted to both classes of shareholders, and due provision will be made for the holders of Share Warrants upon fulfilment of the necessary formalities. The new shares will rank for dividends declared in respect of the period commencing 1st January, 1920, but in all other respects will rank *pari passu* with the existing 1,250,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each.

The transfer books will be closed from Thursday, 4th December, to Tuesday, 9th December, inclusive, for the preparation of allotment letters, which will be posted to the shareholders on or about the 8th instant.

It will be remembered that the Profit and Loss Account for the year ending 31st December, 1918, showed a net profit of £597,938 9s. 6d., which, together with the amount brought forward, left the sum of £974,698 14s. 8d. to the credit of Profit and Loss Account. After payment of dividends amounting to 25 per cent. for the year on the Ordinary shares and 23 per cent. upon the Preference shares, and transferring £150,000 to General Reserve Account (making a total to the credit of General Reserve of £1,250,000), a balance of £463,786 14s. 8d. was carried forward to the current year's account.

With the considerable additional capital which this issue will provide, and having regard to the immense development of Wireless Telegraphic and Telephonic business throughout the world, the earning powers of the Company should be greatly enhanced. The Directors are confident that the profits of the current year will justify them in maintaining the rate of dividend, and there is every reason to hope that the increase in the capital of the Company should at least produce a proportionate increase of profits in future years.

I am, yours faithfully,

H. W. CORBY,
Secretary.

COMPANY MEETING.

SOUTH AFRICAN DIAMOND CORPORATION.

Substantial Progress Made in One Year.

Presiding on December 4th at the meeting of the South African Diamond Corporation, Limited, Mr. Bernard Oppenheimer said the company had made substantial progress in the year. They were largely interested in the diamond trade, the diamond market had much improved, and though prices had risen considerably he was of opinion that the real rise in price had not commenced yet, and when they met next year a further great advance would have to be recorded, not on account of speculation, but on account of real sound business.

There was to be an extraordinary meeting, after the conclusion of the present meeting, for the shareholders to consider whether they should or should not join him in his scheme for cutting and polishing a part of the rough diamonds which were being produced in British possessions. At the last meeting he stated that he had started a diamond cutting and polishing factory in Brighton and elsewhere for the employment of disabled men of His Majesty's forces, and that he would offer the shareholders a participation at cost price, as soon as this cutting and polishing scheme was productive. That moment had now arrived, and the shareholders had been circularised on the subject.

The profits made so far might appear to be small. He need not, however, tell them that the training of these 500 men who were employed now was expensive. The training of the remaining 1,500 men would be much less so, as, firstly, they had now gained experience, and secondly, out of the 500 trained men they had a sufficient number who were clever enough to train their fellow-workmen who would shortly be starting. The profit for the year was £44,472. They had paid dividends of 7½ per cent. and 17½ per cent., making 25 per cent., and for the six months ending December 31st they were paying 50 per cent., or 5s. per share.

The report was adopted, and at an extraordinary general meeting which followed the scheme outlined by the chairman was approved and adopted.

BEMERSYDE FUND.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUTE TO FIELD-MARSHAL EARL HAIG.

OBJECT OF FUND.

To acquire the Estates of Bemersyde, together with the historic mansion of Bemersyde and its scheduled contents, from the owner and to have the same conveyed to the Field-Marshal as a personal gift from the people of the British Empire. The consideration for the purchase is £53,700.

Joint Treasurers:
The Rt. Hon.
THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.
The Rt. Hon. LORD GLENCONNER.

Bankers: BANK OF ENGLAND.

Contributions—large or small—will be accepted by **every Bank throughout the country.**

¶ Pay in your Contribution To-day.

For further particulars write to the Secretary of Fund—

ARTHUR WALTER.
Royal Automobile Club,
London, S.W.1.

Rid Yourself of Skin Illness

Get Antexema, and then you'll know what a wonderful skin remedy it is. Gives instant relief, and soon effects a complete and lasting cure. Every sufferer from eczema, rash, a bad leg, bad hands, chaps, chilblains, face spots, or any other skin illness, should get a bottle at once. Antexema succeeds after doctors, hospitals and all else fails. Non-greasy, does not soil the garments, is invisible on the skin.

Get Antexema To-day.

All Chemists and stores, also Boots,' Lewis & Burrow's, Taylor's Drug Co., Timothy White's, and Parke's supply Antexema at 1s. 3d. and 3s., or direct, post free 1s. 6d. and 3s. from Antexema, Castle Laboratory, London, N.W.1. Also throughout India, Australasia, Canada, Africa and Europe.

You Can Live { 13 days without Food. 3 days without Water. Only 3 minutes without Air.

COUGHS, COLDS, INFLUENZA, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, CATARRH AND WHOOPING COUGH

Reduce the Air Ration below Health Point.

The natural consequence is that the breathing is affected, the bronchial tubes or bronchi become inflamed, and cough, more or less serious, follows. If neglected the entire respiratory system is weakened, and that way consumption lies. Children suffer more frequently from such complaints than do their elders, the death rate among the very young being truly appalling, and in too many instances due entirely to thoughtless neglect.

The World's Supreme Remedy

is Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, so called because of the rapidity with which it overcomes chronic coughs and cures deep-seated and long-standing cases of any of the above-named troubles. Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, in open Competition with the world, was

Awarded Grand Prix and Gold Medal at the International Health Exhibition, Paris, 1910

for its purity, efficacy, and pharmaceutical excellence.

Many thousands of testimonials from cured patients, scientific men and doctors have been received. The following is an example.

Chas. Hyatt-Woolf, Esq., F.R.P.S., F.R.S.L., *in his work, "Truths About Things We Live On and Daily Use," says: "I have experimented in the laboratory with Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, and I have likewise applied it in practice . . . In all cases to which I applied it the influence of this remedy was most marked."*

Reduced facsimile of original package. Refuse all imitations and substitutes.

Ask always for Veno's Lightning Cough Cure. It is sold by Chemists, Stores, and Medicine Dealers in all parts of the world. If your Chemist is out of stock he will get it for you.

English Prices, 1/3 and 3/-

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE

Sole Proprietors—The Veno Drug Co., Ltd., Manufacturing Chemists, Manchester, Eng.

FARROW'S BANK LIMITED

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ZADKIEL'S ALMANAC for 1920.

contains articles on the Peace Treaty, the War and the planets, Marshal Foch's relativity, etc.
N.B.—Zadkiel foretold
the fall of the Hohenzollerns, the Victory of the Entente, the fate of Turkey, etc.

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The surest and quickest remedy for Catarrh, ordinary Colds and Asthmatic troubles.

HIMROD'S ASTHMA CURE

The standard remedy for over 40 years.

AT ALL CHEMISTS

4s. 3d. a tin

BEACON OILSKINS

will keep you dry always. Men's Coats from 21/-, Ladies' from 23/6. Children's from 16/6 (3 year old size). Adults' Sou'westers, 3/-, Long Leggings, 8/- all guaranteed against stickiness, leakage or dissatisfaction or money back methods.

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disappear quickly when in contact with a "MAB." The small keen bladed Mab makes shaving easy and safe.

Ivory Handled Razor 8/-
Pair in case (Ivory handles) 19/6

Of all good Ironmongers and Stores.

"MAB" Co. 73D Newhall St., BIRMINGHAM

Foster Clark's

The Creamiest Custard

Cream Custard

"TORTOISESHELL"

Smoking Mixture and Cigarettes.

The Smoking Mixture is now packed in the usual Decorated Tins.

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

JOE BECKETT.

Good mornin', Joe. . . . *Wot am I lookin' so crorss for?* That ain't anger, my boy—it's sorrer, 'eart-felt sorrer, to think as *you* should 'ave let us down. Now, if it 'ad bin Bombardier Wells it would 'ave bin only wot we expected. But *you*, England's larst 'ope! Well, I *am* surprised! . . . Eh? *Not so much jaw?* Sorry, ole lad, an' all that, but you wouldn't 'ave me disguise me true feelin's, would you? . . . *No need to keep on rubbin' it in?* I ain't exackly rubbin' it in. I'm on'y torkin', that's all. But I don't want to 'arrass you. Wot is it, this time? Shavin'? Face massige or? . . . *Shavin'?* Right-o. An' you kin depend on me goin' light an' easy over the spot w'ere Carpentier did the trick 'Ow did it happen'? . . . *Wot?* You know wot! The knock-out. . . . Oh, yes, I've read your explanations in the noospapers, but they ain't all the same. F'instance, the day arfter the fight one paper *said* as you sed as you was upset at 'e'rin' of the death o' one o' your boxin' pals. Another paper *said* as you sed as you 'adn't started to fight w'en you got your packet, but was just "fillin' in" for the first round. If this is true, I ask you, *w'y* was you only "fillin' in" for the first round? I don't un'erstand your explanation, straight, I don't. I sh'd 'ave thought that first tap wot you got on the nose would 'ave woke you up to the fack thet Carpentier wasn't doin' no "fillin' in" but was out for blood right away. . . . *Sick an' tired of arnserin' questions like them?* I dessay you are: but unfortunitely you've given cause for 'em. And I tell you another thing: some of us are gittin' sick an' tired o' seein' the athletic championships wot we used to 'old goin' to foreigners an' Colonials. I'm glad a Frenchman beat you, at any rate, an' not a swanky Yank. So p'r'aps it's jest as well you're out of it for a time and 'aven't gotter meet Dempsey. . . . Oh, *it was a bit o' bad luck*, was it? Don't you believe it, Joe. You give the openin', an' you was beat by brains wot seemed to work about twice as fast as yours. Frenchmen's wits work quicker'n wot our stolid English ones do. But you're young enough to come out top, yet, if you use your chances. But let me give you a bit of advice: before your next fight, don't ex'ibit so much bloomin' confidence. *Feel* it be all means. But don't advertise it. It makes it all the more disappointin' to your backers w'en you let 'em down, an' makes the other party's friends a bit too joobilant. Better be far to give us a surprise the other way round. . . . *Are I done?* W'y, you don't take my little bit of advice amiss, do you, Joe? . . . *Quite enough to be beaten without 'avin' it chucked in your face by a bloomin lather splasher?* Now, thet's narsty. I know 'ow you feel, but it's narsty. . . . Well, goo'day, Joe. Better luck nex' time!

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of each item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"SUNDAY TIMES":—"The Duchess of —— was CHATTING with friends in the gallery for a considerable time, as were Viscountess ——, IN HER FAVOURITE OYSTER TONES, with Lord ——, etc."

"BEDS AND HERTS SATURDAY TELEGRAPH":—"A wife applied for a separation from her husband but she lost her case when the husband called a Bisect soldier who give evidence admitting misconduct. At the same time the BENCH MADE A SUBSTANTIAL CHILD."

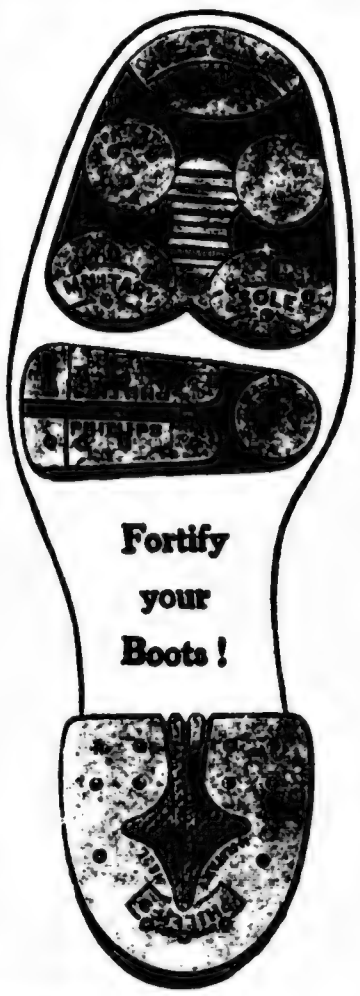
"STAR":—"The Marylebone magistrate committed the prisoner for trial on a charge of STEALING THE WAR."

"BOURNEMOUTH DAILY ECHO":—"The ANIMAL meeting of the Bournemouth Blind Aid Society takes place at 3 o'clock."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRIGHTLINGSEA (programme advertisement):—"Good assortment of XMAS CARDS."

"PORTSMOUTH EVENING NEWS" (advertisement):—"The Light exhibited from Bembridge Ledge Buoy will be PROMINENTLY EXTINGUISHED on Monday."

"READING STANDARD" (advertisement):—"Wanted to buy Coins and Stamps . . . A POSTCARD WILL CALL."



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SOLES AND HEELS

make one pair of boots last the time of three.

¶ They keep feet dry in wet weather, give a smooth, pleasant tread and do not slip. Excellent for general wear by men, women and children. Ideal for Golf.

Men's Stout	5/6
„ Light	4/6
Ladies'	3/-

per set (soles and heels).

The Ladies' Sizes are suitable for Boys and Girls.

HEELS SOLD SEPARATELY—

Men's Stout	2/-
„ Light	1/6
Ladies'	1/-

per pair.

FROM ALL BOOTMAKERS

Phillips' Patents, Ltd.,
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OUR XMAS GIFT OFFER

THE "JOHN BULL" PEN GIFT COUPON
(VALUE ONE SHILLING)

APPEARED IN OUR ISSUE OF NOV. 22nd AND IS AVAILABLE TO 31st DECEMBER.

Had yours yet? If not Send at Once.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 3/3, and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons, and P.O. for 2/3 only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1/3 Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. *Dec. 13th, 1919.)*

P.O.s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

RESULT OF "CAN YOU WRITE A SONG" COMPETITION.

There were several hundred competitors, and many of the songs were of good quality. Two people tied for the first prize in each section and have accordingly been awarded £10 each, viz. :—

Competition No. 1.—Best Complete Song.

"When It's Sunset Time in Somerset."
By HERBERT R. BALLARD,
503, Katherine Road,
Forest Gate, London, E.7.

"Take Me Back to Ireland."
By C. J. BRENNAN,
5, Upper Crescent, Belfast.

Competition No. 2.—Cleverest Parody.

"If You Could Care."
WILLIAM H. ELLIS,
16, Charles Street,
Barnsley, Yorks.

"K-K-K-Katie."
A. G. HADMAN,
21, Friern Barnet Road,
New Southgate.

In addition to the above, 250 Consolation prizes have been despatched.

The Judges were :—Herman Darewski, Walter Williams (Vaudeville Theatre), N. B. Graham (*Wolverhampton Express and Star*), and the results were confirmed by Philip Emanuel ("John Bull"), in the presence of the Judges.

A KING & ZAM-BUK

Nothing Better for Wounds & Sores.

Unique evidence of the reliance placed upon **Zam-Buk** as a healer of wounds and sores is given by the "King" of Bardsey Island which lies in Cardigan Bay, off the Carnarvonshire Coast. In a letter, Mr. Love-Pritchard, the King of Bardsey Island, says :—

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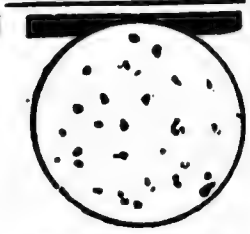

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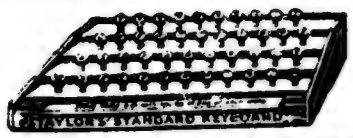

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The NATIONAL NEWS takes national views—every Sunday.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, INSURANCE POLICIES, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

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J. P. (Italy).—"Our casualties at Ypres for one week were more than those of America for the whole war." That's true, and Wilson knows it.

"CONSTANT READER" (Eye).—"There are still some good broad-minded Bishops in the Church of England." We never said there weren't, so you needn't make faces at us.

J. C. (St. Helens).—Don't worry yourself about Uncle Sam's little ways. Did you read our "Plain Words"?

"ST. PANCRAS."—Quite true, the male V.A.D.s, too crooked for the Army, did splendid hospital and air-raid work. That's why we say the hearty "Thank you, men," which nobody else has thought of.

"JUST DEMOBILISED" (Wigan).—"They ought to be known as Bottomley Prize Bonds, or British Prize Bonds, or Premier Prize Bonds." Sounds rather like going Tommy-Dod for a title.

J. H. R. (Clapham).—If a Special Constable wants, as a memento, one of the tin hats he wore during air raids, he must pay 9s. for it! Should scarcely credit such meanness if you had not told us.

J. K. P. (Perth, W. Australia).—Hands across the sea to a brother Editor. But *Sparks* has not yet flown like chaff to our threshing-floor.

"EX-SOLDIER" (Earlsfield).—"I suggest people who subscribe money for missions to so-called savages should send the money to JOHN BULL, who does so much to aid the dependents of those real missionaries who went to France and Palestine." Yes, we could use it for that noble cause.

F. T. (Clifton).—Not much chance of a Bill prohibiting the importation of flour going through in present circumstances.

M. B. (Battersea) suggests that those wishing to deposit wreaths or flowers on the Cenotaph should line up on Sundays, when there is no traffic, and take turns to go round.

H. C. E. (Burgate).—The abolition of the out-of-work dole will do more good than harm.

"DISMONNED" (Alberta).—You seem to have been nicely "told off" by the Canadian Government officials. Did you sauce them back?

W. J. D. (Mitcham).—Glad to hear what you say of the general respect paid to Mitcham to the Cenotaph on Lower Green.

L. M. (Pulteney Town).—"Open your heavy guns on the Government and bring the prices down." Unfortunately they're in the same gallery with those interested in keeping the prices up.

"GREENOCK LASSIE" (Greenock).—The evils of insobriety are for all to see. But we cannot agree that the majority of temperate people should suffer Prohibition because a minority of foolish people get drunk.

"HONESTAS EST OPTIMA POLITAS" (Dublin). Your observations on the Irish question duly noted. Could you make it convenient to confer with the Prime Minister if necessary?

W. S. S. (Torquay).—We note that in your opinion the chemist's is "an irksome and ill-paid trade." And, of course, there is always the risk that he may accidentally poison himself.

J. (Midleton, Co. Cork).—"Don't you think the new postmaster should not be a stranger, but one of two clerks of long P.O. service and 8½ years in the Army? One word from you would be worth all the Council resolutions." Three words from us—Yes, most decidedly.

E. H. (Abertysswg).—"There is a lot of men does take snuff before their time comes to be in front of the medical gentlemen." They does, and upsets their tummies awful.

"RESIDENT" (Parkstone) tells us that "at a certain election of aldermen, one councillor voted for himself, got in by 1, and then thanked the Council for electing him." An alderman who takes no chances and who spares no cheek is well on the way to be Mayor.

M. O. S. (Whitby).—One thing at once, good sir. To blow and swallow at the same time isn't easy.

"R.S.V.P." (Plumstead).—"In a grand oak chair, it may be, That JOHN BULL's editor sits, And so endowed a man is he, That all enjoy his wits." If we could afford it, you should enjoy our whisky.

"CELIA" (Herts).—"Surely the Vicar of Maryport has made a mistake? Confetti is thrown after parties are married; when they come out of church, not while they go in." We forget; it is such a long time since we were led to the altar.

F. K. (Shadwell).—"They are a rotten lot, and he is a rotten cad. . . . I hope you can understand this letter." Seems to us you are much better away from such company as you describe.

W. C. (London, S.W.).—Your poem, unfortunately, is a little out of date. You might do us one on the price of milk, or the coal outlook for Christmas.

"A CONSUMER" (Littlehampton).—Glad to hear that the illuminating power of Littlehampton gas has improved since we threw the light of publicity on your grievance.

F. F. (Winlaton-on-Tyne).—Rates vary according to the locality you live in, but the cheap districts are off the map.

"WESLEYAN" (New Cross).—If the "Concise Oxford Dictionary" instructs you that "Sabbath" is the "Christian Sunday, especially as day of obligatory abstinence from work and play, etc.," you had better burn it and buy another.

"ONE WHO KNOWS" (New Southgate).—Can you inform me if milk should go sour in 48 hours and be returned back to the farm for pigs, unfit for human consumption, during this cold weather?" When is a mouse if it spins?

G. T. (Putney).—If, as you say, it is your habit to "meet a young lady about five evenings of the week," our impression is that you are going pretty strong.

E. F. S. (Dublin).—"Why should not the murderers of policemen in Ireland be brought to London for trial?" If ever your suggestion is adopted we will see that you get the credit of it.

C. D. C. (Wolverhampton).—It appears we have been voicing your views on the Labour Exchanges without knowing it. You have no idea how proud the discovery has made us.

A. H. (N. Kensington).—"A sawyer by trade, also a sharpener, good mechanic, tramped London and cannot get a job." As you say, the "genuine unemployed" suffer most, because they would prefer work.

F. H. J. (Wandsworth Common, S.W.).—The extra 3d. was the 50 per cent. war increase, the Railway Companies having never printed the LOW prices on the tickets.

"BRUIN" (Birmingham).—You will have noticed that no sooner did you mention it than the civilian Out-of-Work Donation was cancelled. Someone must have overheard you.

J. M. (West End).—It is scarcely an extenuation for a man who admits grossly ill-treating and neglecting his four young children that he served through the war.

"DISGUSTED DIGGER" (A.I.F.).—"Your informant's story of helpless women, and I presume children, being pelted with stones and eggs is a malicious lie." How do you know? You were neither there, nor have you the evidence of witnesses.

"HARD HIT" (Harrington).—"Why does not the Government raise money by taxing advertisements?" The argument is that they would be taxing commercial enterprise.

J. D. (Burton-on-Trent).—"What's the good of getting married when you have to buy a home?" Can't say. Have you tried to borrow one? Or you could save money by going to live with her mother.

SERGT. J. H. C. (Tidworth).—"Wasps" who were wounded should certainly have pensions. We must mention it to Winston.

"JUSTICE" (Malta).—Thanks for contribution to our "valuable and independent gazette." That strikes us as quite a natty description.

M. S. (Liverpool).—If the Editor of another paper could not print your letter because the correspondence was closed, you must not ask us to open his correspondence.

"WAR VICTIM" (Norwich).—You and wife are compelled to live on Met. Police pension of 11s. 5d. a week. And people subscribe thousands to help the dear Germans and Austrians! It is a striking proof of our Impeachment of such questionable movements.

"INQUIRER" (Byfleet).—"What is the attitude of the Churches towards vivisection?" Probably it varies, but you mustn't hold us responsible.

"PENNILESS WIDOW" (Scot Park).—Afraid you have no chance of a pension, but you will do no harm in trying a local Committee.

W. L. (Ferry Hill).—Although you suggest that old people should travel at reduced rates on the railways, you omit to stipulate for free beer or picture-shows.

H. C. (Bristol).—Thanks for letter, and glad to hear the gentleman is "now comfortable with his wife." But he was a bad lad to go chasing flappers.

"VERA" (Glasgow).—School children, paying fees, are compelled to have all their books free, by order of the Education Committee, though the parents are willing and able to pay for them—and that's not Scottish thrift. By the by, you term yourself a "bachelor woman." What's the matter with "spinster"?

R. G. (Bow).—"The clergy grumble about churches not being filled. Could not these be used for the accommodation of the British working classes?" A church is no place to sleep in, save on Sundays.

J. S. (Manchester).—Agreed that your 4s. 2d. from the Labour Exchange was "nothing to house-keep on." It was barely sufficient to tip the coal man.

S. R. (Pimlico).—Well, you know, it is sometimes said that the Priest and the Levite passed by on the other side because they knew the man had been robbed already.

F. H. I. (Clapham).—If the Wandsworth postal official suggested to the old man, whilst he was waiting for his Old Age Pension, that he should get rid of his watch and chain, she was insufferably impertinent.

"SAILOR" (Ashore) denounces wireless operating aboard ship as an idling job. In port "the boy runs ashore all day: he meets other operators, and one can guess the results in a place like Buenos Aires." Sorry we are no good at guessing.

H. M. (Birkdale).—"Why should anything be controlled to-day? It's only a three-card trick." That's all? We thought it was a game of Banker.

MRS. P. (Edgware Road, W.).—It is impossible to acknowledge contributions for "Printer's Pie" individually, but they are all carefully considered when compiling the feature.

S. J. W. (No Address).—"Every man anxious to work should have the opportunity of doing so." That is very true, and nicely put together.

C. E. C. (Birmingham).—"I fully trust that you got my recent letter to you to wake the Government up." Your trust is not misplaced. As waker-up, we have rapped at the windows of Whitehall—but they are heavy sleepers there.

(Continued on next page.)

Our Great Xmas Gift Offer

For full particulars see page 9.

Letter Bag—Continued.

"FOLKESTONE" (London, W.).—"I generally find myself in agreement with most of your sentiments." That stamps you as a fairly intelligent sort of person.

W. C. (Hazelwell).—"The Bishops don't care a damn for the happiness of the average citizen." How naughty of you! Substitute "blessing" for the cuss-word, and your protest is just as effective.

CORPORAL W. (India).—When you bought from Peshawar a shaving outfit, all the articles supplied were American. This confirms the information we have already commented on.

H. L. M. (Newmarket).—You are misinformed. Our new weekly Football Competition is quite original, and has never before appeared in any journal.

"ANONYMOUS." — When you apply "Elements of Geometry" to politics, please don't frighten us by saying "Continued." Just say, "Concluded," and let it go at that.

F. C. (Sparkhill).—Have had frequent references to the official extraction of butter, bacon, and ham from Irish parcels sent to England. The senders well know that the export of such things is illegal.

J. R. (Bexhill).—See above. Can't say what becomes of the butter, etc., extracted; but it may be that Dublin Castle eats it.

P. McN. T. (S.W.8).—Space for no more than that "the London and South Western Railway Co. had always been considered the best in England, but is rapidly becoming the worst."

H. E. S. (Worthing).—We note that in your opinion "the G.P.O., Worthing, needs showing up in a public paper." Tell the staff if they don't improve we will publish their photographs.

"AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM" (Preston).—Your letter to hand, and contents noted. We admire your classy *nom-de-plume*.

F. M. (Silvertown).—So the roads of North Woolwich are in such an appalling state that a nurse gets covered with mud from the traffic whilst visiting her poor patients. Why not go to the Town Hall and speak a few nice things?

W. B. (Wigan).—We note that you would like to live in a wooden house. If we see anybody throwing one away, we will certainly speak for you.

"THE MOKE" (London).—Where are you going to? Looks to us as if you were following an invisible carrot.

MRS. E. V. (Birmingham).—Sorry no space to "ventilate your grievance." Better give it an airing in the back garden.

A. A. (Londonderry).—Of course we are pleased to hear from Derry; we like Derry. As regards the cuttings from a Yankee paper, that "America won the war," we should hate to say nasty things to another journal. If it feels pleased to sit in a corner and kid itself, let it.

J. D. J. (Coventry).—Much of your letter is very sensible, and, as there are nine quarto pages of it, you will appreciate the compliment. But your idea of letting a man fix his own terms for piece-work, so that he can earn £50 a week, aims rather high. Couldn't he rub along on £25 till things improve?

J. B. P. (Queen Victoria Street, E.C.).—We have repeatedly exposed the Universal Stores, Cannon Street, Manchester (Directors, J. Dubner and A. H. Rosenson). Those "hard-working girls" should find cleaner employment.

"EX-POLICEMAN'S DAUGHTER" (Chelsea).—Should be only too glad to increase your father's pension, but afraid if we attended to it personally we should never see the money back.

S. S. B. (Great Malvern).—Thanks for riddles. You ought to hire yourself out to Christmas parties.

A. S. B. (Aberdeen).—A bad cruelty case, due to being "drunk while in charge, etc." Unfortunately we have not space to deal adequately with all such cases.

E. J. R. (Peterborough).—*Re* L.C.C. "conchy" scene: "A man with more conscience than grit Had apparently been skirking his bit: For he became quite annoyed When Sir Francis Lloyd On his 'conscience' scored a hit."

"SCOT" (Edinburgh) sends us the advt. of a lady who requires three servants: "8 maids and three men kept." Perhaps the poor creature feels lonely.

A. H. W. (Gloucester).—You should not write to us on Post Office telegraph forms. It gives your letter such a "pinched" appearance.

"NOR ONE OF 'EM" (Dalston).—If, as you state, you can "verify the facts" as to the employment of women in place of ex-soldiers, please do so and report after Christmas.

"ONE IN THE KNOW" (London, S.E.).—It is a slave-driving firm that pays women and children 2s. 3d. per thousand for stringing bags (two strings and two knots per bag) but you cannot expect us to print their name and address when you withhold your own.

MRS. W. (Poplar).—"They haven't had children themselves, yet come to see how a woman is looking after her offspring." That's just it, and it serves them right if they get "told off" sideways.

D. B. C. (Finchley Road, N.W.).—Thanks for bewitching "ode to Pussy-foot." You are NO. 547 on our list of approved candidates for the Poet Laureateship.

H. J. C. (Chelmsford).—We note that the gentleman at the Town Hall "bit your wife's head off." Was he trying to kiss her?

M. V. (Derby) thinks the 120 cottages erected on the Westfield estate, Lancaster, by Lord Cavendish, for the benefit of disabled soldiers, to be "the finest and most lasting commemoration of the war."

W. R. (W. Australia).—"We are able to get mutton at 5d. a pound, taking the side of a sheep at a time." But we can't come all the way to Australia to eat mutton, can we?

J. J. (Morecambe).—"We shall not get settled again until Oct. 16, 1920 (Daniel 8c. 14v.)." No bet.

E. S. (Stapenhill).—Shocked to hear of the septuagenarian who "faked himself up" to marry a young woman. It was a mercy he didn't come unstuck.

"G. S. D." (Lewes).—Our little joke was not unkindly intended. If we thought you thought so, we should be inconsolable.

"A REGULAR READER."—"Cook and parlourmaid, washing allowance 2s. 6d. between us. What is the allowance in food for two?" Surely that need not worry you. If cook can't wangle the allowance for both, she doesn't know her business.

W. T. (Peckham).—The housing question bristles with difficulties, but it certainly seems hard lines that cottagers should be turned out to make room for a new factory. But it may be an advantage in the long run.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

CATARRH, DEAFNESS, EAR NOISES.

Send for Free Copy of Sir Hiram Maxim's New Book and learn of a quick and easy Common Sense Home Cure.

No need to continue suffering. Sir Hiram Maxim the great inventor and scientist, who has done so much to help our brave soldiers in the fighting line, has invented a remarkable appliance for home treatment, and repeated tests prove conclusively that it will cure in a very short time most cases of:—**Catarrh, Deafness, Ear Noises, Bronchitis and Asthma.** Especially useful in chronic cases and where all other means have failed

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Ven-Yusa is not only delightfully cooling and refreshing, but it has the rejuvenating and beautifying action of the oxygen in the air.

1/- per jar at all Chemists, Stores, &c.

VEN-YUSA *The Oxygen Face Cream*

Or from C. B. Pulford Ltd., Leeds.

THE GREAT BRAIN FOOD.

BRAININE

The Only Cure for Brain Fag.

It is a great vitaliser. It builds up, through the brain, the whole nerve system. It makes work a pleasure. It

Solves the Drug Problem.

It is free from strychnine or any poisonous ingredient. It is no quack preparation. It is made up from the prescription of a great Brain Specialist. It is

Strongly recommended by Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P.

It is sold in tubes at 1/3 and 3/- To be obtained at the Army and Navy Stores, Boots, and all leading Chemists; or direct, post free, from—

BRAININE 35, Buckingham Gate, LONDON, S.W.

DR. RIDGE'S FOOD gives health, strength and comfort to Invalids, Convalescents and the Aged. It makes milk more digestible.

RIDGE'S FOOD.

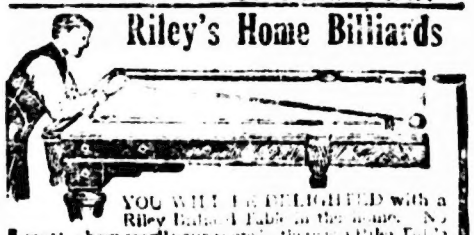
Doctors recommend it. Thousands enjoy it. Try it for supper. Tins, 1/6, 2/6 & 5/-

Unsurpassed Chilblain Cure.

THE POWER WHICH GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT POSSESSES OF DRAWING OUT INFLAMMATION RENDERS IT A CHILBLAIN CURE OF EXTRAORDINARY EFFICACY

It is impossible to doubt or deny the extraordinary value of GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT as a cure for even the worst cases of Chilblains. Its efficacy as a **Chilblain Cure** is made evident by the huge sale it acquires as soon as the cold weather arrives and the numerous letters which reach us from those who have used it and been cured. It is chiefly to its unsurpassed drawing power that GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT owes its curative value. It draws out the inflammation and pain of chilblains with a promptitude which no other preparation can approach. Beware of imitations and substitutes, which are invariably worthless, and often harmful. GRASSHOPPER OINTMENT may be had of Boots', Timothy White's, Taylor's Drug Co., and other Stores and Chemists, at 1/3 a box, or direct, post free, from J. B. Albert, 73, Farringdon Street, London, E.C. 4.

Riley's Home Billiards



YOU WILL BE DELIGHTED with a Riley Enclosed Table in the home. No matter how small your room is, there is a Riley Table to fit it. Riley's Miniature Billiard Tables give a perfect game, so truly are they proportioned. **7 Days' Free Trial.** Prices from £7. The 6 ft. 4 in. size at £11 10 s. cash, or 15 monthly payments of **10s. 3d.** is suitable for most rooms. Riley's "Combine" Billiard and Dining Tables from **£28 10s.** cash or in 12 or 20 monthly payments. These prices include all accessories and carriage to any address within a mile of railway station. *Illustrated Catalogue Free.*

E. J. RILEY, Ltd., Manor Works, ACCRINGTON.
London Showrooms: 147, Aldersgate Street, E.C.

THE "JOHN BULL" GUARANTEE. *We guarantee the goods advertised by every firm whose trade announcement appears in* JOHN BULL, *i.e., we hold ourselves responsible for their being of the quality and standard represented at the time of purchase and the rate of payment, either in full or of first instalment, and if any reader can show just cause for dissatisfaction with the purchase of any goods made through any trade advertisement in our columns, we will refund the purchase money, provided the goods complained of are sent to us within one week from the date of original purchase. All communications should be addressed to* JOHN BULL, *Advertisement Department, 92, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.*

'BULLETS' 2ND PRIZE £20 — 1ST PRIZE £250 — 'BULLETS' 3RD PRIZE £10 1ST PRIZE

10 PRIZES OF £5	10 PRIZES OF £2 : 10	25 PRIZES OF 10s.	200 PRIZES OF 5s.	1,000 PRIZES OF 2s. 6d.	3,000 "TARGET" PRIZES.

Please note that next week "Bullets" First Prize will be increased to £500.

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

From any one of the Thirty-two examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the example chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with any letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. These examples will guide you. Example:—WE MUST HAVE. Bullet: MORE HOUSES FOR WORKERS. Example: A SIMILARITY. Bullet—ARGUED WITH MAGISTRATE. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for sixpence. If more coupons are used, an extra fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent. Result of this Competition will be found in our issue dated Jan 3rd.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 357.

MERRY CHRISTMAS	BRITISH CHAMPION	ON AND OFF	PUTTING THINGS STRAIGHT
LADY ASTOR	FAIR FIGHTER	A FINE FELLOW	BOTTOMLEY'S MOTTO
WHAT A TIME	AFTER A DRINK	A BAD SIGN	TIGHT LITTLE ISLAND
GETTING ON	BAD MEMORY	HIGH AND MIGHTY	CHANGING HER MIND
THINKING	CAN'T BE HELPED	POOR BEGGAR	OTHERWISE ENGAGED
A PLAIN WOMAN	VISITING UNCLE	AFTER THE STORM	LABOUR'S SHARE
WORKING HOURS	A SIMPLETON	GOOD SPORT	THE LAST INSTALMENT
WE MUST HAVE	GERMANY'S GAME	A BIG GOOSE	STRANGLING TRADE

No.____ **Closing Date, Thursday, December 18th**

Example_____

Bullet_____

Example_____

Bullet_____

(357) P.O. No._____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If coupons is used P.O. for 6d. must be sent.

Signed_____

Address_____

☞ IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No.____ **Closing Date, Thursday, December 18th.**

Example_____

Bullet_____

Example_____

Bullet_____

(357) P.O. No._____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If coupons are used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.

Signed_____

Address_____

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No 357 "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

No.____ **Closing Date, Thursday, December 18th.**

Example_____

Bullet_____

Example_____

Bullet_____

(357) P.O. No._____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If coupons are used P.O. for 1/6 must be sent.

Signed_____

Address_____

No.____ **Closing Date, Thursday, December 18th.**

Example_____

Bullet_____

Example_____

Bullet_____

(357) P.O. No._____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page.

If coupons are used P.O. for 2/- must be sent.

Signed_____

Address_____

Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 358.

CHRISTMAS CHEER—FILLING THE STOCKING—MY NEW YEAR WISH—NO CHICKEN—WHEN BOTTOMLEY FINDS OUT—A BUSY MAN—MERRY ENGLAND—GETTING MORE BLUNT—ALSO RAN—KEEPING HER BALANCE—IDLE FELLOW EYE TO BUSINESS—UP TO US—NOT MARRIED AFTER A FEW—NOT WANTED HERE—TOUGH PROPOSITION—MORE OR LESS

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **THURSDAY, Jan. 1st.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **358** in the top left-hand corner and envelopes containing these coupons must be addressed "Bullets" No. 358, "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such coupons must not contain any of the Thirty-two examples for Competition 357.

List of 200 winners of Turkey prizes in Competition No. 355 will be ready next week, and published in the "Competitors' Journal," or it will be forwarded on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope. Complete list of all cash and other prize winners can be seen at the offices of "John Bull

Result of 355th 'Bullets' Competition

FIRST PRIZE OF £250:

Mr. A. DAKIN,
36, Leven St., Moston, Manchester.

Example:—BOXING CHAMPION.
Bullet:—FIXES "INDEMNITY" BEFORE "HOSTILITIES."

SECOND PRIZE OF £20:

Mr. JAMES PEMBERTON.
Elvedon, Thetford.

Example:—RISKING ALL.
Bullet:—TOMMY "STOOD OUT" THERE.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:

Mr. E. HARRIS,
"Elm Lea," East St., Littlehampton.

Example:—POOR BARGAIN.
Bullet:—MAN YOU CAN BUY.

10 PRIZES OF £5 EACH:

MR. J. OWEN, 38, Keble Rd., Bootle, Lancs. NO DISPUTING—ARBITRATION SHOULD "COME FIRST."

MISS N. BAKER, Langford, nr. Bristol: BADLY NEEDED DON'T "GIVE IT AWAY."

MRS. M. A. KING, 31, Shawcross St., Seedley, M/c: FOOTING THE BILL—GERMANY—"WELL SHE MAY."

MR. S. F. FISHER, 14, New St., Sudbury, Suffolk: DAILY ROUND—FOR PAYMENT RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.

MR. SMITH, 10, Wimbourne Rd., Radford, Notts: BADLY NEEDED ANOTHER "ELEVENTH HOUR" EFFORT.

MR. M. HUGHES, 68, William St., Swindon: WORDS AND DEEDS CHAFF AND GRAIN.

MR. F. COOKE, 124, Malpas Rd., Brockley, S.E.: POOR BARGAIN—"DRIVEN" AFTER GERMANS WERE.

MR. D. CONNOLLY, R.I.C., Dingle, co. Kerry: NO DISPUTING WHAT BOTTOMLEY ASKS STRIKERS.

MR. T. JONES, 38, Vale Terr., Tredegar: ALL FOR THE BEST ADJUDICATORS—"MARK MY WORDS."

MISS L. GOULDING, 55, Wykeham St., Scarboro': KEEPS BOTTOMLEY BUST LABELLING THE "NO GOODS."

(Sent in on a Free "Target" Prize Coupon).

10 PRIZES OF £2 10s. EACH:

MR. R. CAMPBELL, 9, Balmoral Rd., Gillingham: KEEPS BOTTOMLEY BUST—WORK—OTHERS PLEASE NOTE.

MR. E. HAY, 10, Esplanade Terr., Portobello: BADLY NEEDED—A MIDDLE-CLASS SMELLIE.

MRS. A. GREENWOOD, 27, Roby Mill, Appley Bridge, Lancs. ALL FOR THE BEST SO WIFE "TAKES IT."

MISS K. PATON, Maryville, Giffnock, Glasgow: GETTING THE PLUMS—THOSE WHO FOUGHT TRIBUNALS.

MRS. M. JENNER 39, Suffolk Rd., Ponders End: FINE FEATHERS SLANEY'S CAP REPLACES NOW.

MR. J. N. TAIT, 6, Medley St., Castleford: JUST TAXES HIS MEMORY—POLITICIAN SELDOM.

MR. C. BEATON 80, Thompson St., Shipley, Yorks: MUST BE STOPPED GRINDSTONE RESHARPENING GERMANY'S SWORD.

MR. R. BARNARD, 41, Wilson Rd., Camberwell, AWKWARD MISTAKE GOVERNMENT "DELAY" THE EXPLANATION.

MR. A. GRIGGS, 28, Valentine's Rd., Ilford: MUST BE STOPPED—TRAINING GERMANY'S "DARK HORSES."

MISS C. E. WOODGER 129 York Rd., Woking: DAILY ROUND OF HORRORS THAT'S BOLSHEVISM.

BULLETS RULES. 1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the Judges, in consultation with the Editor, is the best "Bullet" received, and the other prizes in order of merit, the test being cleverness, aptness and originality. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3. All four coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed ____ and Co. ____ Competitors must write their names and addresses and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Coupons must not be defaced in any manner.

4. All coupons arriving too late to be judged with absolute thoroughness will be duly returned to their respective senders.

5. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet received shall have careful consideration by a competent staff of qualified judges.

6. The Editor's decision on any matter of dispute arising in connection with this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

THE JOHN BULL GREAT FREE FIRE INSURANCE COVERING ALL RISKS BY FIRE TO HOME, LIFE & LIMB

UNDER this most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER anyone above the age of 10 can be insured irrespective of sex. The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure similar benefits would certainly exceed 5s. per annum. Worth it to you absolutely free.

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal representative" or "next of kin." Claims will be paid to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else.

A separate coupon must be filled up in respect to each person to be insured.

This offer applies only to persons residing in, and property situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

The full conditions governing this scheme will be published in the first issue of each month

WHAT WE WILL PAY:

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to	£200
In case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye ..	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the injured person from following his, or her, employment, up to ..	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks ..	£1 per week

ORDER FORM
TO BE RETAINED BY NEWSAGENT.

To .....
Newsagent.

Please deliver "JOHN BULL," to me regularly until further notice

Signed .....

Address .....

Dec. 13, 1919.

You must also fill in the Registration Form which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept., 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

REGISTRATION FORM
Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of .....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee .....

Address .....

Signature of Insured .....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)
Home Address .....

Dec. 13, 1919. .....

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

Enclose 1d. stamp if an acknowledgment of receipt of Registration Form is required.

£3,550 ALREADY WON!

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR NEW WEEKLY COMPETITION YET?

£250 MUST BE WON!

FOR TEN WINNING TEAMS

OR NEXT LARGEST NUMBER OF WINNING TEAMS.

Our new weekly Football Competition is Quite Different from any other and ONLY appears in this paper. The sum of £250 will be paid to the sender of ten winning teams selected from those given on the coupon on this page. Should no competitor succeed in giving ten winning teams, the prize of £250 will be awarded to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams. This competition is open for one week and coupons can only be taken from this week's issue.

£250 must be won this week; send in YOUR coupon without delay.

NO ENTRANCE FEE—GREAT ONE-WEEK COMPETITION.

THIS COMPETITION IS EXCLUSIVE TO "JOHN BULL."

Coupons do not appear in any other paper.

The competition is quite free, no entrance fee of any kind being charged. Competitors can send as many coupons as they like. Scottish and Irish readers may compete. A careful study of football form should be made before filling in coupons. The "National News" gives the best and most accurate reports and forecasts every Sunday, which should prove of great assistance to intending competitors.

Cut out coupon neatly and address all entries as follows:—"Football Competition No. 15, JOHN BULL, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2." Write "Football" in top left hand corner of envelope. All coupons can be enclosed in one envelope, but it must not contain entries for other competitions.

YOU CAN SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

For result of Football Competition No. 12 see page 20.

Read these Rules carefully.

(1) All attempts must be made on coupons taken from the issue of JOHN BULL announcing this competition. Coupons must be written in ink (typewriting or pencil will not be allowed), and must be filled up in accordance with the instructions given on this page.

(2) The sum of £250 (two hundred and fifty pounds) will be paid to the sender of a coupon giving any ten winning teams from amongst those playing on Dec. 20th, given on the coupon on this page. If no competitor succeeds in giving ten winning teams the prize of £250 will be paid to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams. If two or more competitors succeed in giving ten winning teams, or failing that, succeed in sending the next largest number of winning teams, the £250 will be divided equally amongst them.

(3) Any coupon which has marked upon it more than ten Xs or less than ten Xs will be disqualified.

(4) No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any coupon. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt. No correspondence will be entered into nor will interviews be granted.

(5) Any coupon on which an alteration of any kind has been made will be disqualified.

(6) Our employees are debarred from entering this competition.

(7) Any coupons received later than December 18th will be disqualified.

(8) The Editor's decision must be accepted as final and legally binding in all matters concerning this competition, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

HOW TO MARK YOUR COUPONS.

If you think the "Home" team will win put a X in the left-hand column headed "Home Win"; if you think the "Away" team will win put a X in the right-hand column headed "Away Win." Only ten teams must be marked in all. **If more or less than ten Xs appear on any one coupon it will be disqualified. Coupons MUST be written in ink.**

"JOHN BULL" FREE FOOTBALL COUPON.

Matches to be played Saturday, December 20th. Coupons must reach us not later than Thursday, December 18th.

Home Win	Home Team		Away Team	Away
	Aston Villa	v.	Oldham Athletic	
	Blackburn Rovers	v.	Bolton Wanderers	
	Manchester United	v.	Newcastle United	
	Middlesbrough	v.	Bradford	
	Preston North End	v.	Burnley	
	Sheffield United	v.	Chelsea	
	Bristol City	v.	Blackpool	
	Grimsby Town	v.	Birmingham	
	Notts Forest	v.	Port Vale	
	Stockport County	v.	South Shields	
	Wolverhampton	v.	Hull City	
	Swindon Town	v.	Crystal Palace	
	Aberdeen	v.	Hibernians	
	Kilmarnock	v.	Partick Thistle	
	Queen's Park	v.	Dundee	
	Raith Rovers	v.	Ayr United	

Coupons must be cut—not torn out.

I enter "John Bull" Football Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions on this page and agree to accept the Editor's decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

SIGNED .....

15 ADDRESS .....

.....

A LADY-LIKE SHOE.

Style No. 157.—Ladies' fine black Glace Kid Gibson Shoe, Patent Toe-cap, as illustrated. Reliable, good-wearing sole; smart, stylish walking heel. Nicely finished. For style, workmanship and price, cannot be excelled.

If not sure of size send outline of stockinged foot.

32/6 POST FREE.

Style No. 157.

SIZES.—2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (size 8, 1/- extra). Each size made in two different widths—No 4 (medium) and No. 5 (wide).

Write for our List of Other Styles.

The MAXIMUM SHOE Co., Ltd.,
Dept. 70, Maximum Works, Northampton.

DAISY Cures at once HEADACHE or NEURALGIA

Daisy gives relief almost instantaneously—in five minutes the pain is *absolutely gone.* Don't let headaches rob you of your precious hours—remember Daisy is the quick, safe, scientific and most up-to-date specific for the complete eradication of headache and neuralgia. Get a supply of Daisy to-day and be prepared for the next attack

DAISY

A 6d. HEADACHE CURE for 2d.

DAISY is sold by Chemists and Stores everywhere at 2d. each; 6 for 1/-; 20 for 2/6; 60 for 6/-.

DAISY LTD., LEEDS

Odds On Oils FOR RHEUMATISM

Don't Suffer Longer.

CHILBLAINS GOUT, SPRAINS, CRAMP, SCIATICA, LUMBAGO, NEURALGIA, BURNS.

Do not despair if Rheumatism has so afflicted you as to render you comparatively helpless. Here is good news for Rheumatic sufferers.

"ODDS-ON" OILS have cured and are curing thousands. "ODDS-ON" OILS go to the seat of the trouble, dispersing the rheumatic deposits which lurk in the system.

Rheumatic Sufferers need no reminding of the pain their affliction causes them. So cutting are the sharp pains Rheumatism inflicts. It is

JUST AS IF THE FLESH WERE PIERCED.

Rub until the hand is dry and shiny. All the oil is then at the place where the pain was—the pain has gone.

Persevere with "ODDS ON" and the trouble will entirely disappear. TRY IT.

READ THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONIAL.

To the Secretary, Oct. 11, 1919.

Dear Sir,—I think it is my duty to let the public know the value of your Liniment. It has worked wonders with my Rheumatism (which attacked me in Salonica), and I have only used one bottle, but I shall never be without it. I am also recommending it to all my soldier pals who suffer that terrible pain. —I am, Sirs, Yours respectfully. (51744) Pte. W. Johnson, 7 Coy., Hazley Camp, Hut 2a, Winchester.

YOU CAN GET "ODDS ON" OILS at any of BOOTS 550 branches, also Timothy Whites's, Lewis & Burrows, Harrods Stores, Taylor's Drug Stores, Army & Navy Stores, Junior Army & Navy Stores, Civil Service Stores, Barkers, and Gamage's Stores, or any other Chemist, in 1/3 and 3/- bottles family size 8/-), or, if any difficulty, sent post free, 1/6, 3/5, and 8/6.

FREE A trial Bottle, together with an interesting book, will be sent post free upon application.

THE ODDS ON SPECIFICS CO., LTD.
(Dept. J.B.), 36 & 37, Cock Lane, LONDON, E.C.
Your chemist CAN get it for you.

Hindes

HAIR TINT FOR GREY OR FADED HAIR.

Tints grey or faded hair any natural shade desired — brown, dark-brown, light-brown or black. It is permanent and washable, has no grease, and does not burn the hair. It is used by over three quarters of a million people. A Medical Certificate accompanies each bottle. Of all Chemists, Stores, and Hairdressers, **2/6 the Flask**, or direct from HINDES Ltd., 1, Tabernacle Street, City, London.

Patentees and Manufacturers of the World-Famous Hindes Wavers.

WHEN you are "below par" whatever the cause, business worries, heavy work, lack of sleep, it will pay you to take SANOVA. This is not a cure-all. Not a quack remedy. It is the result of a fully qualified Chemist behind it. A genuine TONIC. Not a form of drugs. No injurious reaction.

TONIC SANOVA BRAND

Each Egg an absolute Pick-Me-Up

In Boxes 1/3 & 3/- obtainable from all Chemists or post free for 1/4 & 3/- all net from Depot, J. J. Mackenzie Turner, M.P.S., Bristol

FOR COUGHS. Owbridge's Lung Tonic FOR COLDS.

The British Remedy.

Owbridge's

Lung Tonic

for

COUGHS & COLDS

Ask for "Owbridge" and take no substitute.

Prepared by
W. T. OWBRIDGE, Ltd.,
Manufacturers. The Laboratory, HULL.
Established 1874.

Printed and published for the Proprietors (JOHN BULL, LTD.) by ODHAMS LIMITED, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Agents for the Colonies, Garden and Gotch, Ltd., London, Australia, Canada, etc.; South Africa, Central News Agency, Ltd.; also Imperial News Co., Ltd.; Toronto News Co., Ltd., and Montreal News Co., Ltd., Canada.